

Amptelike nuusblad van die personeel van die UV • Official newsletter of the staff of the UFS

When driving on our Main Campus, one's first impression is that this is a campus of development and progress. It is a campus where the physical environment is important and a campus where a considerable amount of money is spent on the upgrading of its facilities. This is in line with our university's commitment to create and sustain an academic culture where all our staff and students can work and live.

"The development of the infrastructure on campus has seen a steady improvement over the past year and several of our projects are in various phases of planning and execution. We are excited about all these projects and developments to maintain a high standard of infrastructure that we can all be proud of," said Nico Janse van Rensburg, Manager: Physical Planning of our university.

These projects include, amongst others:

- A full-scale upgrading of the Callie Human Centre, which should be completed by November 2009;
- The upgrading of the ground floor of the George du Toit Administration Building, where the postal division is situated;
- Erecting sign boards to buildings and putting up numbers against the buildings for better identification;
- The building of a virtual health facility with lecture rooms for the School of Nursing;
- The general upgrading of lecture halls, including painting them;
- The building of a vehicle pool on the western part of campus;
- The upgrading of the Sasol Library, which will entail new carpeting, energy-saving lighting and painting;
- The development of the parking area between the Wynand Mouton Theatre and the Flippie Groenewoud Building into lecture halls and office space for the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences. As a result of this, part of the existing parking is moved to the P1 parking area opposite the Agriculture Building where additional parking

areas will be built right up to the fence next to DF Malherbe Avenue and the Kossie Church;

- The building of an agricultural demonstration unit for students from the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences;
- The building of a pedestrian route from the Main Gate past Mooiemoesfontein to the residences; and
- Guard's houses at all the entrances, with the last one at the Roomsmyrn Gate having been recently completed.

To add to this, our residences have also undergone a face-lift this year with all the foyers being upgraded. This includes changes such as single entrances with electronic revolving gates, emergency doors, electronic notice boards, uniform exhibition cupboards and furniture, the uniformity of reception counters and the installation of see-through glass and blinds at all the windows in the foyers.

"This has made a huge difference to our residences and they now look much more professional and user friendly. It has also helped to enhance the security at the residences. Our students are proud of what the university has done for them," said Esta Knoetze, Acting Deputy Director: Accommodation Services.

Another project, which will initially restrict the access routes to Grey College and Eunice Primary and Secondary Schools and eventually improve the traffic flow in Nelson Mandela Drive and Parfitt Avenue, was started by the Mangaung Local Municipality. Our university has come to an agreement with the Mangaung Local Municipality, which includes access to these schools from Chancellor's Road to assist with the flow of traffic for a limited period of time in the mornings and again during lunch time. - **Lacea Loader**



PEOPLE



GEBURE



NEWS

## Everyone gains with our better infrastructure





**T**hese past holidays I was in Mozambique; not so much at the seaside and on the beach than more inland at places such as a village near Catandica and at Moatize, a town near Tete, spending time with some of the people. One thing that stood out was how the young children look after and take care of the younger children. Often these children themselves are no more than two years older than the children they are taking care of.

I shared this piece of information with a colleague, who told me that this used to be the status quo in her neighbourhood but due to crimes such as rape and kidnapping, children are supervised by somebody they know. "However, our people are still taking care of one another," she said. "The national elections are a good example. Stem gaan jy stem. Of dit nou die buurvrou aan jou linkerkant is wat ANC stem of die buurvrou aan jou regterkant wat COPE stem, jy word kom haal om te

gaan stem," she said.

Daily, without realising it, we are taking care of one another at this institution. (One can of course choose to see it differently. Words like back stabbing, gossiping, etc. come to mind.) Whether it is in helping one another, or just by implementing procedures and ways to conduct our work in a more efficient and effective way, it is happening.

The recent purchase of a machine at the Postal Division not only mechanises the whole process of mailing stacks and stacks of letters, documents and accounts, but it is also saving our university hundreds of rands. Read more about Prof. Sakke Steyn and Pule Mthabang's account of the "Gautrain", as they like to refer to it.

Another example is the Aids Centre's efforts to help both staff and students on our campus to become aware of their HIV status. They recently launched an initiative where staff and students had the

opportunity to get tested. Read more about their vision and their plans for the future.

I believe that with a little bit of help it is not difficult to achieve. The recent graduation ceremony is a good example. When asked about the reason for their successes many of the students mentioned a good support structure comprising their mom, dad, roommate and lecturers.

Albert Nell, a LLB student who received thirteen prizes at the Faculty of Law's graduation ceremony, Prof. François Toimie's son François, and Marjolein winning the serenade competition are all products of a good support structure.

As we are a university of excellence we all strive to be counted among the best. Helping one another will bring us one step closer to towards being excellent.

Wishing you the best  
Leone

## Gap between school and university needs attention

Tibi Kibe writes:

At a recent academic discussion about our university's parallel-medium policy, several academics pointed out the ups and downs of such a policy.

Examples were given regarding how difficult it was for an institution to compete with other education institutions, being parallel-medium. The Sesotho topic was brought up and that also shed a different light onto why some black students would or wouldn't study in Sesotho, had it been an option. Others made mention of the role played by two languages in uniting or dividing students. Yet another dilemma stems from the whole parallel-medium issue: not whether or not to change or keep things as is, but regarding the standard our university maintains.

Speaking of standards, we offer an English Basic Skills class attended by students hoping to secure eight credits on completion of their degree or those that really struggle with the English language.

The type of student you would come across in an ENG104 (Basic Skills) class is one that still talks of his/her aunt and says something like, "My aunt came to the University of the Free State and he

enjoyed his studies." The obvious problem is that the aunt, a female, is referred to as a "he".

This class is intended for students struggling with English. These are students who wouldn't do well in their assignments because of the language and not because they hadn't done the proper research. And yes, the majority of the students are black.

To my mind, black students have an advantage over Afrikaans-speaking students because they passed Grade 12 in a second or third language – which makes you wonder about the language taught at secondary-school level.

Are we accepting students merely because they provide financial viability to our university as a business, or are we accepting students with the hope of creating a generation which can stand on its own and make a mark in history?

In my opinion, our university seems to be an easy bridge to cross. The standards seem to be "adjusted" annually and more students (and their parents) are falling victim to financial problems because of the students' failure rates.

Essays are becoming a nightmare for lecturers to mark and it seems that the ENG104 class is filled to its capacity every year, only to have

second- and third-year students who still have problems identifying the gender of the person they are writing about or, even worse, losing marks for not understanding the concept of referencing and plagiarism.

The trail of thought that I'm trying to convey is that the university seems to be taking the easy route to education. We aren't being realistic about what "good standards" are any more. The gap between the secondary school and university needs to be given more attention and maybe the introduction of a freshman year wouldn't be a bad idea after all.

The freshman year would ensure that students get the opportunity to play rugby till it hurts, go to ATKV meetings and establish their social and cultural life before they enter a classroom for the first time.

This obviously implies more money spent by parents and students alike, but what good is it if our university awards degree after degree to students who can't even hold their own ground during a job interview and persuade the employer that he/she is better than any of the other 10 000+ students countrywide who have the same degree?

Our university needs to re-strategise and be true to its motto of being a university of excellence, equity and innovation.

details

## Vra is vry en weier daarby ...

Dumela is compiled by the division Strategic Communication at the University of the Free State

Editor:  
Leslie Boleurs  
051 401 2707 / 0836455853  
boleurs.stg@ufs.ac.za

Layout and printing  
Xpoxe / 051 448 9231

Strewe na beter diens, skryf:

Dit bly nog altyd 'n voorreg om aan 'n tersiëre inrigting verbind te wees wat na uitnemendheid streef, maar met die groeiende getalle in studente en personeel is daar werklik 'n paar klipies wat seer maak.

Met die bykans 27 000 studente wat jaarliks deur die registrasieproses moet gaan, en ander geld (finansiële) transaksies moet doen, wil ek die vraag vra of ons kassiersstelsel by die Thakanebrug voldoende is om goeie diens te lewer.

Ek het die grootste lof vir die personeel wat onder geweldige druk kliënte bedien, maar is daar geen manier dat meer kapasiteit geskep kan word en die werksure verleg kan word sodat dit meer verbruikersvriendelik is nie?

Ek was onder die indruk dat die kantoortour tot 15:00 is, maar toe ek op 30 April met 'n voornemende student daar opdaag, was daar 'n baie onoorgelike papier opgeplak wat aangedui het dat die kantoortour tot 14:30 was.

Ek vra maar net of ons nie dalk gehaltesdiens kan lewer wat ons kan onderskei van ons konkurrente nie?

Wieda McCrae, Adjunk-direkteur: Finansies, Klageliste, antwoord:

Baie dankie vir u brief en die positiewe trant waarin u dit geskryf het. Finansies was reeds in onderhandel met ABSA om die kassiere deel te maak van die nuwe sentrum wat ontwikkel word. Die sentrum is na deeglike marknavorsing en a.g.v. ekonometrie omstandighede op die langtermyn geskep.

'n Voorlegging om nogtans die huidige kassierekantele en diens 'n "facelift" te gee, is deur bestuur goedgekeur. Twee addisionele dienspunte sal gereed wees voor die volgende druk registrasieproses in Januarie/Februarie 2010.

Kantoorre moes weens sekuriteitsredes verander word. Die veranderde tyd is met die SR gekommunikeer, gepubliseer in die IRAWA en op die deur van die kantoortour aangedui op 'n getikte, gelamineerde A4-plakkaat, wat 'n tydelike opsie is om kostes te bespaar, omdat die opgradering van die kantoortour binne die volgende paar weke begin. Alternatiewe elektroniese betalingsopsies bestaan indien kliënte nie betyds by die kassiers of banke kan uitkom om betalings te maak nie. Hou die Uv-webblad dop vir aanlynkrediet-aftalingsopsies wat binnekort die lig gaan sien.

Kontak ons oor 'klippies wat seer maak' en wees verseker dat ons ons bes sal doen om u te help.



# Let's drink to ... water

By Prof. Maitland Seaman

Water is like money; it's only a problem when you don't have it, as in the drier parts from Bloemfontein westwards, if you like. Paradoxically, water is free and extremely abundant; it's the pipes and pumps and taps and treatment that cost money and use energy, the latter also costs money and is fast running out. With enough cheap energy you can desalinate as much seawater

as you want. However, we don't have that energy and therefore, above all, need to protect the natural freshwater resources that we do have in the service of humanity, including the processing of our waste.

The 600 mm isohyet on which Bloemfontein lies is historically and culturally very important. It is the rainfall line, approximately north-south, which separates dryland agriculture to the east from a historically pastoral economy to the west. Therefore Bantu-speaking crop farmers settled east of the city, which they called the place of the cheetah, Mangaung. It's also called Bloemfontein, after Jan Bloem, a colourful chief of the Koranna, who were pastoralists moving with their stock from spring to spring west of the city, as water availability and veld condition allowed. The San moved

about everywhere, knowing full well where water could be found. When white settlers arrived in our area in around 1800, they too were primarily pastoralists, living mainly west of that 600 mm isohyet at first, and later spreading eastward. In those days of subsistence economies, people went to where water could be found, not the other way around, as is the case in modern market economies.

Water is now a resource that has the potential to create conflict between jurisdictions when it is in short supply. Paradoxically, it is so precious that it instead seems to force people to work together to conserve it, to the benefit of all parties.

South Africa values water highly. Our National Water Act is probably the world's best water law. It respects the right of every person to have quality piped water available within reasonable walking distance and that all rivers should have a minimum reserve of water available to the people living in each catchment. More significantly, each water source must also have a reserve flow and condition that ensures that it can sustainably supply water for drinking and industry, including agriculture.

**The rivers and groundwater must survive pollution in order to supply their special product. A sustainable supply of water is therefore extremely important.**

This is why our university has so many people carrying out research on water. That is the reason why there is a Bloem Water Chair in Water Environment Management. That is also the reason why our university's Academic Cluster 1 is "Water management for water scarce areas". This Cluster has four focus areas, looking at the ecology, water conservation, climate change and social aspects around water.

It is our sincere intention that we at this university will contribute significantly to research and education on the sustainable use of water, especially in water-scarce areas, and not just in South Africa. Let's drink to that.



Prof. Maitland Seaman.

## Sport offers so many opportunities

The news that football giants Spain will be using our university's sport facilities to train for their matches in the upcoming FIFA Confederations Cup is a huge feather in the cap of the university's sport administrators.

The Spanish national football team is likely to include several world-class stars such as the striker Fernando Torres and the midfield maestro Cesc Fabregas in the squad that will be heading for Bloemfontein in June this year.

I hope, though, that FIFA and the local organising committee for the Confederations Cup are not going to be too stringent when it comes to security issues and that they will allow soccer fans – especially our students – to watch some of the training sessions here at Shimla Park and get the autograph and photo that would make their day.

Sport at our university has been boosted by strategic interventions on the part of the management and sports administrators in recent years. The foresight of these individuals is beginning to produce results, on and off the track, and the training sessions of the Spanish football team is another high-profile example.

For a university such as ours, the opportunity we provide to students to excel in sport, the arts, as well as in the mainstream academic programmes, is an important part of our commitment to the all-round development of the student. This is what we mean when we tell prospective students that our university is the place for you.

Something else that must be mentioned (and that did not make the

newspaper headlines), is the fact that about 50 of our students have been chosen by FIFA to be hosts and hostesses to VIP guests who will be attending the FIFA Confederations Cup matches here in Bloemfontein in June. This means that they will assist these VIP guests to find their way around at the stadium.

It might seem insignificant, but I'm sure that those 50 students who were selected from those who applied for the job will be very proud indeed that they will have been able to make a small contribution to the success of such an important event being hosted by their country. And of course they are getting paid for their work.

In today's world, sport has become more than just a hobby, more than just fun and thrills on a Saturday afternoon – it has become a worldwide commercial phenomenon that touches so many aspects of our lives, including our universities.

Our university has realised the vast potential that lies in student sport, including the obvious: producing championship teams and star players to improve the prospects of the individual sports men and women concerned, as well as enhancing the status of the UFS as a world-class university.

So, let's hope that when the final whistle blows on the FIFA 2010 World Cup next year, our university will have been able to score a few more fantastic goals by producing yet another batch of really top-class sports men and women who not only take our university, but also our country forward. - Anton Fisher

[MY  
VIEW]

from another angle

**T**he Main Building at our university is a place where one is likely to bump into the Rector and Vice-Chancellor and many of the other managers of this institution. But it is also the place where one will invariably come into contact with the unassuming gentleman who always wears a warm and friendly smile as he effortlessly welcomes visitors to the campus.

He is the first point of contact for those entering this wonderfully renovated and refurbished structure and his name is Elliot Vuyisile Nkalitshana.

Elliot started working at our university as a cleaner four years ago before he became a receptionist in the Main Building in January 2007.

"I am very proud to be working in a building that houses the offices of the top managers of this institution," he says. "I thank God for having given me the honour of working among people of this calibre. This experience can only make me strive for great things in life and also one day to achieve what they have accomplished."

The job of being a receptionist, like any other job, has its own challenges,

as Elliot has discovered over the past two years. "I meet different people every day. In this position I have learned to always be patient and polite as I deal with different characters with different attitudes."

Besides directing people to the right offices within the building, I also make sure that important documents from inside and outside the university are delivered safely to their respective destinations in the building."

Elliot was born in Thobela N'chu in the Free State to James and Sophie Nkalitshana 43 years ago. He attended primary school there before he moved to a high school in Botshabelo where he completed his matric in 1991.

"While growing up I wanted to be a teacher, a dream I held onto until I finished matric. But as fate would have it, that remained only a dream, because of my family's lack of resources," he says.

His mother was a domestic worker and his father worked at a factory. He has three siblings, an elder brother who is a Mangaung police officer and two sisters.

The dream of being a teacher still lives on in the mind of this staunch member of the Zion Christian Church, though this time around it is not a distant dream any more. He has taken the only logical step this year towards making it a reality by enrolling for a Bachelor of Arts in Education at UNISA.

"I got motivation from the leadership of this university, especially those who work directly with students and help solve their problems. I see myself playing that role in future too." He regards the former State President, Nelson



*Time out with...*

**L**ea Koenig, a Trac Lab manager at our university's Qwaqwa Campus and a dedicated Mathematics and Science teacher, joined our university in 2003 when the Trac Lab was established through the Research Institute for Education Planning (RIEP). Since then she has made a huge difference in the lives of the 12 317 learners and 372 teachers from the surrounding schools in the Free State that the lab has accommodated to date.

"Learners visit me at the laboratory and we do experiments they can put in their portfolios. We work on laptops with electronic measuring instruments. I love to know why and how stuff works when it comes to science. One of the highlights of this job is when a face lights up and you know that this learner understands for the first time. Also when the teachers report a 40% increase in their science pass rate," Lea said.

Lea studied at Potchefstroom where she completed her B.Sc. She completed her B.MSc (Hon) at Medunsa. Lea also did a

HED and her B.Sc. (Hon) in Psychology at Unisa, where she started working as a researcher. After that, she moved back to, Medunsa, where she worked as lecturer.

However, with her firstborn, a new season in her life arrived and for a few years she worked as a teacher at various schools in Bethlehem, amongst others at Ntsu and Witteberg Secondary School.

Lea is married to André and they are blessed with two lovely daughters Leandra, a Junior Lecturer at Unisa, Lealele, a final-year medical student at Kovvies, and an adopted son, Shaun, also a Science and Mathematics teacher. She is also very proud of her one granddaughter, Jordan.

"My hobbies include everything involving needles: creative embroidery, quilting, knitting and sewing. I love teaching people to sew. I am also involved in a sewing and knitting project in the squatter camp based in Bethlehem," says Lea.

Which book lies next to her bed? "I am currently reading *Smart Moves: Why learning is not all in your head* by Dr Carla Hannaford and *Switch on your brain* by Dr Caroline Leaf. The most amazing book I have read is *What's so amazing about grace?* by Philip Yancey," Lea said.

Whilst trying to make a difference, Lea does encounter challenges. "Over the past two and a half years 44 schools visited the lab. To make a significant difference in children's science marks, I can only accommodate eight schools per year. We need at least three more mobile labs in the Qwaqwa area to help with their practical

## Lea's science lights up learners' lives

Lea Koenig.



Elliot Nkalitshana.

Mandela, as his role model. "He preaches peace and reconciliation and always emphasises the importance of education," he says.

"I also believe that it is only through education that one can realise one's dreams."

Prior to joining our university, Elliot worked as an estate agent selling houses in Zamdela, Sasolburg and then worked for the Department of Correctional Services in Vereeniging, Gauteng, as a Disciplinary Officer for nine years. He was then transferred to Grootvlei Prison outside Bloemfontein where he resigned in 2002.

Thereafter he spent three years without a job before he worked for Prestige as a cleaner in 2005. Prestige is a company contracted by our university to provide cleaning services on campus. It was while he was working for this company that he applied for his current position and, as the saying goes, the rest is history.

Elliot lives with his wife and two daughters in Botshabelo. In his spare time he likes reading and listening to music. He says he also takes part in athletics "just to keep fit". - **Mangaliso Radebe**



PHOTO: MANGALISO RADEBE

## A WARM AND GENTLEMANLY WELCOME

work. With mobile labs we will be able to visit the schools and take the equipment to them to do the practical work there. It is just not possible to help all the schools right here on campus with only one laboratory," Lea said.

"The ideal would be a fully functioning Science Centre with permanent indoor and outdoor exhibitions on campus, which all the learners from our area can visit free of charge and where they can enjoy the wonders and excitement of science."

"I love to see the light going on in the eyes of a learner touching a computer for the first time; him seeing a graph being drawn on the screen and for the first time really understanding a difficult concept of science."

"I still delight in reading a feedback form that says, 'For the first time in my life I felt intelligent - I enjoyed every moment, it was fun'. It is great to know you can make a difference. I love it," concluded Lea. - **Jabu Majosi**

## Praat oor apartheid, sê Charles Cilliers

Die omvattende ontwikkeling van personeel en studente is baie belangrik vir ons universiteit. Net so belangrik is ons universiteit se strewe om 'n billike, nie-rassige, nie-seksistiese, multikulturele, meertaalgeplek te wees. Charles Cilliers, skrywer van *The Choice on For Whites Only*, en Gayton McKenzie, 'n voormalige gevangene in die Grootvlei-gevangenis wat in 2002 'n korruptieskandaal in die tronk oorgeleef het - dit is ook sy lewensverhaal wat in *The Choice* vertel word - het albei hul siening oor onder meer transformasie, integrasie en rassisme tydens 'n aanbieding oor menseregte wat deur die Kantoor van die Waarmende Studentedekaan, dr. Choice Makhethe gereël is, gegee.

In die boek *For Whites Only* vertel Charles, 'n oud-Kovsie, kaalkop die waarheid oor rassisme. "This is an anti-racism book for whites, coming from a white guy," skryf hy. "Dit was ook teen hierdie agtergrond dat hy ons personeel en studente toegesprek het. Alles in Suid-Afrika en so ook aan die universiteit gaan oor ras. Daar is te veel in terme van rassisme wat nog nie aangespreek is nie. Dit is noodsaaklik dat ons dit hanteer," sê hy. "Apartheid and its defeat is a grand subject and it's worth knowing about it and talking about it," skryf hy.

Gayton McKenzie het op 'n baie komiese, dog inspirerende wyse personeel en studente aangemoedig om mekaar oor rassegrense heen beter te leer ken. "Omdat ons ons besluite op persepsies van mense grond, sukkel ons om mekaar te aanvaar," sê hy. - **Leonie Bolleus**

Gayton McKenzie, Suzan Mshumpela, deputy director UFS Marketing, Charles Cilliers.



PHOTO: ANTON FISHER

## Kundiges oor e-leer vergader hier

Ten einde by te dra tot die akademiese kultuur by ons universiteit, het ons Sentrum vir Hoërondwysstudies en -ontwikkeling (SHOSO) se afdeling e-leer onlangs as gasheer vir 'n kollokium oor e-leer opgetree. Kundiges in e-leer en tegnologie-ondersteunde leer van 14 Suid-Afrikaanse universiteite het op ons kampus byeengekóm om die beste praktyke in e-leer in hoërondwys te bespreek. Dié kollokium volg op 'n inisiatief van die Universiteit van Johannesburg in samewerking met ander universiteite om 'n e-leerontwikkelingsprogram daar te stel. Die doel is om riglyne vir alle aspekte van e-leerontwikkeling te formuleer. Ses werkgroepe het elk 'n voorlopige dokument oor 'n aspek van e-leerwagte geskryf en dit by die kollokium aangebied. Aspekte wat bespreek is, is onder meer die tegniese onderbou van e-leer, e-leer en institusionele struktuur, die ontwerp van elektroniese leermateriaal, die opleiding van e-leer kundiges, asook studente se reaksies op die e-leerervaring.

- Leatitia Pienaar



FOTO: LEATITIA PIENAAR

Dr. Mariëna Kruger van die Universiteit van Johannesburg, prof. Mark Schofield van die Edge Hill Universiteit, Lancashire, Engeland en dr. Herbert Thomas, hoof van ons e-leer afdeling.

## Sit jy jou geld op die regte plekke?

Om die regte besluit te neem is nooit maklik nie, veral nie wanneer dit by jou beleggings kom nie. As 'n Sanlam-adviseur spesialiseer ek daarin om vir jou 'n nommerpas oplossing te kry wat 'n balans skep tussen wat jy wil hê en wat jy regtig nodig het. Of dit nou effektroute of 'n uitkeerpolis is. Of jy veilig wil speel of bereid is om te wag, ek kan jou help met 'n pasgemaakte beleggingsplan in die Topaz-reeks oplossings. As jy dus ernstig is oor die toekoms, skakel my gerus. Ons dink vooruit. En jy?



**Ben Opperman**  
Senior Onafhanklike Finansiële Beplanner  
051 407 8156  
082 457 2240  
benopman@intekom.co.za

Sanlam OORLOUERS 2014

**Sanlam**  
Ons dink vooruit

GELDEENDELIK VOORAF VIR FINANSIËLE DIENSTE

## Industrial Psychology doing an inside job

*"The appreciation and excitement afterwards were paramount. It was an indication that we did in fact generate change. All our hard work paid off. It was definitely worthwhile," Audine du Toit reported after the presentation of a Small-Group Facilitation training session at the Mangaung University of the Free State Community Partnership Programme (MUCPP).*

Few people are used to students talking in this way. And this had nothing to do with RAG. If we hadn't stumbled across what these students were doing, no one would probably ever have known except, of course, those whose lives they touched.

Since 2004, the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences and the Community Service Learning Office at our university have been involved in a very unique community project. The third-year Industrial Psychology students are required to conduct their own needs analysis to determine the needs of the community allocated to them after which, of course, they must address this need in a viable, sustainable manner. Key to this project is training and development that often involve the unemployed and entrepreneurs. However, some training is focused on smaller children.

This community project is not only beneficial to the different communities, but also aids the students in gaining a better understanding of the psychology behind training so as to facilitate a higher success rate with regard to their programme.

The 340 students involved in the project this year were responsible for presenting among others: The life cycle of a butterfly; Small-group facilitation; Bake and decorate a cookie; Sustainable poultry project; How to use the library; Fire prevention; Peer pressure; and Early childhood development.

According to group leader Hennie Erasmus the students involved in the Bake and decorate a cookie project had a fun-filled day: "We had the opportunity to interact with people from different cultural and language groups. As a group we especially valued the satisfaction of reaching out to other people. We came to realise our own potential as well as the potential of other people. Also, we learned that you could do a lot for other people even with limited resources – all you need is creativity and a willingness to work hard." No wonder this group calls itself Jara – Just a little Extra!

The Fire prevention project seemed to have a similar impact on both the presenters and attendees. Group leader Elsabe Smit reported, "What a lovely experience. I think we learned as much from them as they did from us... We hope that they will be able to apply what they have learned in a time of need."

Under the guidance of Annetien Lues, Tiana van der Merwe and Leon Bezuidenhout from the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences this project will continue to enrich the lives of many students and communities. - Cindé Mostert



Immanuel de Wee and Nhle Chamane with their project at the Free State Care in Action's Welpe pre-primary school.



Fire-prevention skills can come in handy in an hour of need.





Prof. André Pelser.

## Sociology leads the way in population studies

The last South African Population Policy was tabled in 1998. Now 10 years later the Chief Directorate: Population and Development in the National Department of Social Development has commissioned a review of the policy.

One of the key people involved in this mammoth task is Prof. André Pelser, Professor in the Department of Sociology, who in turn has summoned the help of Dr Nola Reddinghuys, a lecturer in the same department.

"This is a recognition that our department is regarded as one of the leaders and specialists in population studies in South Africa and also wider in the sub-region," said a proud Prof. André.

Together these two colleagues will be responsible for reviewing the chapter in the policy on "Trends, changes and challenges at the interface of population, environment and development in South Africa."

They found that the increased utilisation and overconsumption of natural resources could worsen the cycle of poverty, environmental degradation and ultimately impact negatively on human development.

"The population growth rate has declined significantly over the past 10 years but despite this decline consumption levels have increased rapidly," he said. "The poor are becoming more and more dependent on an environment that is increasingly stressed or unable to meet the demands of those who directly depend upon it for their daily survival."

They attributed this decline in the population growth rate to HIV/AIDS, the opening up of the job market for women, increased access to reproductive health care and the education of women, among other contributory factors.

"The South African population is aging rapidly. In all age categories the population will either stabilise or decline over the next 20-30 years except for the older age category – 65 years and older – that will increase rapidly. This growing number of people will have a profound impact on the national budget. We are going to see, in years to come, that certain resources will have to be channelled towards the care of older people at the expense of other sectors," said Prof. André.

They also found that the growing demand for land, housing and services, places major demands and pressure on the natural environment and the urban authorities who find it increasingly difficult to meet the demand for human development.

"We lack human capacity at all levels of government, from national to municipal level, to implement certain policies and to monitor them over time. We have some of the best policies in the world yet we do not see their benefits," he said.

They further inferred that the pressure on economic development, social services and environmental resources, particularly access to fresh water and land, will continue to mount in the coming years.

To mitigate this potentially dire situation they amongst others recommended that government should be firm and decisive in implementing, monitoring and evaluating environmental policy instruments. Immediate and strategic intervention and mitigation measures must be taken against the effects of climate change. The demand for energy has to be balanced with the need to minimise the damaging impact of energy generation on health and environment. They also recommended that conditions that threaten food security must be identified, targeted and addressed and that the deterioration of fresh water sources and the looming water shortage demand immediate intervention. Human capacity required for the implementation of policy initiatives also needs to be strengthened and increased they said.

"If we do not look after our natural environment much better than we did in the past, we are really going to create a situation where we will find ourselves in a downward spiral in terms of our quality of life," said Prof. André.

The Population Policy provides the framework for all population development initiatives of the South African government and its principles are reflected in several pieces of legislation. It is expected to be tabled later this year.

- Mangaliso Radebe

## IMC named for the proposed diversity institute

An Interim Management Committee (IMC) will be spearheading the formation of a proposed Institute for Diversity at our university, according to a decision taken by the Executive Management.

The proposal for an Institute of Diversity came in the wake of the Reitz video and the closing down of the Reitz residence in 2008.

The Institute for Diversity is envisaged as a centre of academic excellence for studying transformation and diversity in society – a living laboratory for combating discrimination and enabling reconciliation in societies grappling with racism, sexism and xenophobia.

The members of the IMC that is meant to fast-track this initiative are:

- Rector (convenor)
- Vice-Rector: Academic Planning
- Vice-Rector: Student Affairs
- Chief Director: Community Service (secretariat)
- Director: Diversity
- A nominated dean from the Committee of Deans
- Director: Research Development
- Director: Internationalisation
- A nominated member of the Management of the Qwaqwa campus
- A nominated member from each of the SRCs of the Qwaqwa Campus and Main Campus
- One nominated member from each of the two trade unions at the UFS
- One nominated member from each of the Council, Senate and the Institutional Forum, and
- A representative of the Transformation Cluster

In addition, the IMC will be supported by several Fulbright scholars as well as a panel of experts that was assembled towards the end of 2008.

The IMC will have to make recommendations to the Executive Management regarding several key questions, including: how the proposed institute will be conceptualised, its main areas of work, its name, a funding model and many others. - Anton Fisher

## Arbeidsterapiedosente leer van kinder-ontwikkeling

Ons universiteit se strewa na gehalte sluit 'n voortdurende proses van ontwikkeling en leer in. Dosente aan die Departement Arbeidsterapie het onlangs opleiding ontvang in die gebruik en administrasie van die Early Childhood Developmental Criteria (ECDC)-toets. Dr. Ingrid Herbst, samessteller van die toets en ook 'n oud-Kovsie, het die kursus aangebied. Dit het uit teoretiese en praktiese opleiding bestaan. Elke dosent wat die kursus bygewoon het, het die geleentheid gekry om 'n kind in die teenwoordigheid van dr. Herbst te toets. Die interpretasie van toetsresultate is ook bespreek. Dit was 'n baie leerse sessie vir almal. 'n Teenwoordig en groot waarderend woord teenoor dr. Herbst uitgespreek vir die praktiese wyse waarop sy haar kennis kom deel het. -Leatitia Pienaar



Amore Swanepoel.

# No magic formula for success

**What can be done to improve our students' success rate?  
Leonie Bolleurs spoke to a few colleagues.**



**Prof. Jaqueline du Toit from the Department of Afroasiatic Studies, Sign Language and Language Practice:**

Our greatest challenge is an overemphasis on process and the resultant de-emphasis of people. In well-meaning worldwide efforts to address rising student numbers and the commercialisation of universities, a de-emphasis of learning in favour of material gain as measure of success has taken place. This has cost us the "soul" of the university. In order to address student success, we need to move away from an adherence to short-term and unreliable measures of "success" based on the quantitative rather than on the qualitative. We should stop obsessing about numbers in favour of the quality of the students we produce. This, I suppose, is to move away from a bureaucratic process in order to allow academics to be teachers again instead of administrators.



**Dr Lintle Mohase, a lecturer in Botany in the Department of Plant Sciences:**

Implementing some formative strategies can assist the students and increase their chances of successfully completing their studies. Students do not know how to study effectively and they lack time management. This limitation could be improved through tutorials and workshops. During such sessions the students' ability to think critically, analyse, and solve problems constructively, and implement creative and effective solutions, could be developed. Students further tend to lose momentum in their studies due to lack of motivation. Reinforcing attendance and participation in academic meetings such as seminars and workshops could enhance the students' desire to learn. Additionally, scholarly excursions to industries and research stations where scientific concepts are applied could make apparent the importance of education and hence revive the desire to learn.



**Andrew Mohan from the Centre for Accounting on the Qwaqwa Campus:**

There are many factors affecting student performance both adversely and favourably. Socio-economic status is one of the major factors affecting student performance. Some parents and guardians earn low wages resulting in some students working to augment their meagre financial resources, no doubt adding to their stress levels and distracting them from their studies. To achieve better student success, the following three steps can be helpful:

- Promote student achievement through mentoring and peer discussions,
- Support and develop talented/dedicated staff, and
- Build a solid organisational structure with well-established channels of communication and the clearly defined delegation of authority.



**Dr Saretha Brüssow from the Centre for Higher Education Studies and Development:**

To improve student success it is important to create an educational environment that nurtures engagement as learning scaffold, since the student, with little prior knowledge on which to build, needs guidance and relies on the higher-education educator to construct the learning process. Positive efforts should be made to engage students in a non-threatening learning environment where they are encouraged to enter into active dialogue through academic and social engagement events, since it provides opportunities for students to both share and construct knowledge. Conceptual, active/interactive, reflective, cooperative, experience-based, and constructive learning represent the elements of engaged learning and play a major role in improving student success.



**Dr Ilze Keivy from the Department of Constitutional Law and Philosophy of Law:**

There is no magic formula for success. Student success can, however, be improved in a concerted effort involving the student, our university and lecturers. There has to be a "proper fit" between the student and his/her course. A student should attend all lectures and cultivate a culture of learning from the word go. Compulsory class attendance will definitely improve student success. Our university has to provide the student with the necessary skills, e.g. study methods, computer literacy, time management, coping skills, tutor classes, etc. Lecturers should also be accessible, positive and enthusiastic about their work and able to transmit knowledge in such a manner that it inspires and motivates students. Ultimately, however, the secret to success depends on the student's commitment and hard work: an ethic of work.



**Dr Annalene van Staden from the Department of Psychology of Education:**

All role-players have to take responsibility. First we have to look at the quality of teaching and learning. Many students enrol for courses whilst they are not interested in what they study. This negatively impacts on their self-esteem and motivation to succeed. Lecturers also have an important responsibility. We have to look at diversifying our teaching methods and using innovative methods whereby we allow more student participation and hands-on experience to make difficult subject matter more accessible. Extra tutor classes for students who experience learning barriers are another possible solution.

## Help asseblief die buskleuterskool

Studekte van ons Departement Menslike Bewegingskunde het kleuters van die Chris Hani-buskleuterskool gehelp om hul motoriese beweging deur middel van fisiese aktiwiteite te verbeter. Die kinders, wat nog nooit blootgestel was aan moderne toerusting of verskillende sportsoorte nie, het elke kombi in ons universiteit se sportsentrum geniet. Wat vir die kleuters soos blote speletjies gevoel het, was fynbeplande aktiwiteite wat spesifieke bewegingsontwikkeling en die toepassing van hierdie bewegings in verskillende sportsoorte tot gevolg gehad het. Alhoewel baie reeds gedoen is om die buskleuterskool op te knap, is daar nog baie ruimte vir verbetering. Enige opvoedkundige speelgoed, matre, matrasse, verf of klimrame sal met ope arms verwelkom word. Met 'n klein bietjie moeite kan ons as universiteit en gemeenskap 'n groot verskil maak in 30 kleuters se lewens. Die buskleuterskool is 'n gemeenskapsprojek van ons Fakulteit Gesondheidswetenskappe se derdejaarsstudente en dien as bewys van ons universiteit se ingesteldheid op die ontwikkeling van en diens aan die gemeenskap. - **Lacea Loader**

## Birds of a feather flock together

On the basis of an awareness of best practice, our university's Faculty of Economics and Management Sciences was recently visited by Prof. Marc de Clercq, Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration of the University of Ghent, Belgium, to explore the possibilities of collaboration in education and research in the field of economics and management. The two universities have signed a collaboration agreement in 2007. Prof. Marc was accompanied by Prof. Luc D'Haese, Extraordinary Professor of Rural Economy and Development Economics, and Advisor to the Rector on international affairs. This visit will be followed by a video conference to plan for further cooperation implementation, and for a reciprocal visit by our university to Ghent later this year. - **Leatitia Pienaar**

## Jongste boerderytegnologie aan Oppersmans geskenk

Opkomende en kommersiële boere van die Oppersmansgemeenskap in die Noord-Kaap is die eerste keer in staat om soutvlakke op hulle plaas effektief te monitor. Dit is danksy 'n skenking van die jongste tegnologie wat die soutvlakke van grond meet – die EM38-stelsel – deur ons Departement Grond, Gewas- en Klimaatwetenskappe. Hoewel die stelsel dwarsoor die wêreld gebruik word, is ons die enigste tersiêre instelling in die land wat die nuutste weergawe van hierdie stelsel besit. Met die skenking toon ons universiteit en sy personeel hul verbintenis tot diens aan die gemeenskap. - **Lacea Loader**

## We join hands with CUT and Red Cross

Our university, for which community collaboration is very important, is involved in a partnership that was formed between our Service Learning Division, the Central University of Technology's (CUT) Community Engagement Division and the South African Red Cross Association. This partnership, which provides an opportunity for interested stakeholders to come together and table both their resources and needs in a joint effort to enhance community service, was established in November 2008.

Since then, the coordination and networking among the different partners have given some of the projects the necessary boost. One of these projects includes the training of medicine, nursing and theology students in palliative care as offered by Naledi Hospice. The objective is to provide students with skills that will empower them while performing their service-learning projects in an exceptional setting. Another project that benefits from this partnership is one where clients of the Red Cross receive training from the Department of Consumer Science at our university's Lengau Experimental Farm. - **Dikgapano Makhetha**

## Correction

On p. 8 in the previous edition of Dumela we reported that Prof. Rian Venter is the Head of the Department of Old Testament. He is the Head of the Department of Systematic Theology.



# Lochner won't be tied down

*"What on earth would you write? I'm dull. There's really not much to say." That said, Lochner sent me his CV and I was confronted with a blank screen and a deadline.*

I picked up the phone in an attempt to write a profile of the new Director of the Centre of Development Support at Kuvse Campus. I discovered a man respected by colleagues, admired by students and adored by his wife. When he eventually allowed me into his personal space, I could not agree more.

**You are often described as a workaholic. Do you enjoy your work that much ... or do you enjoy working so much?**

Do you know what the definition of a workaholic is at the university? "Someone who works 40 hours a week ..." Generally, I enjoy the variety of projects that we are involved with. To begin a new research project every two to three months creates the illusion of a vacation ... a change is as good as a holiday! I rarely experience a feeling of routine or repetition. Does that answer your question?

**Do you resent ties, or do you forget to wear one?**

[Tip from a colleague.]

I don't like being "tied" in – especially not around the neck.

**Colleagues enjoy your sense of humour.**

**Mind sharing a joke?**

Humour is not something necessarily restricted to jokes, but the ability to observe and voice contrasts and puns in everyday life. To tell a joke will feel forced – almost like wearing a tie.

**You are also described as a multi-tasker, an honour almost exclusively bestowed on women. Is this a natural talent or something that you had to master?**

I don't know whether that is true. I've never seen myself like that – maybe I'm better at bluffing? And I'm almost sure that my wife would not agree – she multi-tasks much better than I.

**And for all that, do your wife, Charlene, and two boys, CF (12) and Franco (9), still come first?**

That is an unfair question. Maybe you should rather ask them. [Charlene confirmed that they were, in fact, priority: "Lochner always puts other people first, not only his family, but other people too." The boys chose not to say a word ... the apple doesn't fall too far from the tree.]

**Open your front door ever so slightly and give us a glimpse ... what happens in the evenings when you get home?**

We hardly ever use our front door – we use the entrance via our garage ... your question anticipates a particular pattern. Things don't always happen systematically.

It is usually a disorderly process that includes cooking, homework, music practice, a game of chess, chatter about what happened during the day, mopping up tears, sharing a laugh, reading (especially biographies) ... and the rest I cannot tell you – you asked for a glimpse only.

**Is what you achieved today a realisation of your childhood dreams?**

I don't know – I did not really dream about a career as a child. If it depended on my dreams, I suppose I would rather have been a famous sportsman – but talents are lacking in that field.

**Can you explain what you do for the man on the street in a sentence or two?**

The Centre for Development Support aspires to conduct relevant socio-economic research that evaluates policy or helps our clients to develop better programmes. With regard to government departments and non-governmental organisations, it usually has direct reference to policy aspects. Our private-sector clients usually require market research. Our research programmes are focused on low-income housing policies, local economical development, basic social problems or developmental challenges. We also have a specific programme that focuses on socio-economic aspects of arid areas in South Africa (a true niche area that we still need to develop).

**Where is the future taking Lochner?**

I don't know. And I'm not particularly concerned about that. I will probably be happy to retire as a researcher at the Centre for Development Support or a similar centre.

For someone with a CV that reaches for the stars, Lochner seems way too relaxed. And maybe that is his recipe for success: Gently does it ... although sometimes with a little force!

- Cindé Greyling

Prof. Lochner Marais.

## Acta Theologica up there with the best

Quality is about an absolute refusal to be complacent or to be satisfied with mediocrity. The Faculty of Theology once again proved that they support this statement when the *Acta Theologica*, the academic journal of the Faculty, was included in Scopus.

Scopus is the world's largest abstract and citation database of research literature on all subject areas. The letter that the editorial staff of the *Acta Theologica* received from Scopus, reads as follows:

"I am writing to inform you that Elsevier Bibliographic Database Scopus, the largest abstract and citation database of research literature across all subject areas and quality web sources, is expanding its scope to include publications in the Arts and Humanities. In recognition of its high quality and relevance to the scientific community, *Acta Theologica* is among the first publications to be selected for coverage as a part of this expansion."

Two years ago, the *Acta Theologica* was also included in the Arts & Humanities Citation Index of the *International Scientific Index*. Since then, only one of the 27 other theology journals in South Africa managed to be included in the ISI-list.

Prof. Hermie van Zyl is the new chief editor of the *Acta Theologica* and Dr. Lyzette Hoffman will act as the executive editor.

Prof. François Toimie, Dean of the Faculty of Theology, thanked our university's management for the financial and other support that made it possible to produce a quality academic journal.

Prof. Hermie van Zyl and Dr. Lyzette Hoffman.

## Spread the word

To spread the news about what we do is paying off and recently we had some coverage in the media to be proud of:

- A grant of R3 284 million to research biosafety of genetically modified crops was covered in *Business Day*, *Landbouweekblad*, *Volksblad*, etc;
- A report on blood tests for players at the FIFA Confederations Cup to be done at our SA Doping Control Laboratory was covered in *The Citizen*, *Saturday Star*, *Volksblad*, and several interviews with Dr Pieter van der Merwe, head of the laboratory, were also aired on SABC International TV, SABC TV, Joz FM, RSG, SAFM, etc.
- Our university's own veterinary virologist, Prof. Robert Bragg, was used as an expert by various media on the swine flu epidemic currently spreading throughout the world on the seriousness, implications and possible control of the virus in South Africa. He was interviewed by *Burger*, *Saturday Dispatch*, *Volksblad*, *The Citizen*, RSG,

SAFM, 5FM, Motsweding FM, Umhlobo Wenene, etc.

- The first successful conviction on edible oil adulteration of a Durban businessman, in which Prof. Lodewyk Kock from our Department of Microbial, Biochemical and Food Biotechnology assisted the National Prosecuting Authority and South African Police Service with the successful prosecution, was published in *The Witness*, *Business Day* and *Volksblad*.
- The European football champions, Spain, will be training at our Shilima Park for their FIFA Confederation Cup matches against Bafana Bafana and Iraq in June this year. This attracted the attention of media such as *Lesedi FM*, *Bloemnews*, and *Volksblad*.

- Lacea Loader



1. Prof. Robert Bragg.  
2. Dr. Pieter van der Merwe.  
3. Prof. Lodewyk Kock.

## Prof. Aldo nou Direkteur vir Internasionalisering

Prof. Aldo Stroebe is onlangs na Direkteur: Internasionalisering bevorder. Ons universiteit se fokus op uitnemendheid in navorsing en studente-ondersteuning in 'n internasionale konteks is hiermee bevestig.

Prof. Aldo word as 'n leier op die gebied van die internasionalisering van hoërsonderwys erken, soos deur verskeie aanstellings bevestig word. Dit sluit in: Vicepresident van die Southern African Research and Innovation Management Association (SARIMA), lid van die Uitvoerende Komitee van die International Educators' Association of South Africa (IEASA), lid van die Raad van die South Africa Netherlands Partnership Programme

on Alternatives in Development (SANPAD), en Kongrespresident van die International Organisation of Research Management Societies (INORMS 2010).

Hy is 'n internasionaal-erkende landbou- en landelike ontwikkelingskundige wat op Afrika fokus. Hy het sy meestersgraad aan die Universiteit van Gent in België verwerf, en 'n Ph.D. aan ons universiteit, in samewerking met Cornell Universiteit in die VSA. In 2005 was hy 'n nadoktorale genoot by Wageningen Universiteit en Navorsingsentrum in Nederland. Hy is die outeur/mede-outeur van meer as 80 artikels, hoofstukke in boeke en verslae. - Lacea Loader



Prof. Aldo Stroebe.

## Accommodation Cape Town

Student accommodation Observatory

FIVE STAR budget accommodation

Ideal for large/small GROUPS

Conveniently situated close to UCT and all that Cape Town offers

Holiday Accommodation

RATE: From R125 per person sharing

Phone: 021 447 9056

Fax: 021 447 5192

E-mail: [info@riverview.co.za](mailto:info@riverview.co.za)

Website: [www.riverview.co.za](http://www.riverview.co.za)

Visit our website or contact us for additional information.

## Did you know...

The medical programme in the School of Medicine was one of the first in the country to convert from a six-year to a five-year curriculum. It has been accredited by the Health Professions Council of South Africa.





# Posafdeling kry sy eie 'Gautrein'

'n Nuwe posmeganisasiemasjien wat by ons universiteit se Posafdeling in gebruik geneem is, gaan massaposhantering op die kampus nie alleen vergemaklik nie, maar ook aansienlike bedrae aan posgeld en koerter bespaar.

Volgens prof. Sakkie Steyn, Registrateur: Algemeen en Lynhoof van die personeel by die afdeling Posdienste en Dokumentasie, kan die masjien tien verskillende werkdagte digitaal stoor. In die geval van studenterekeninge verloop die proses deur opeenvolgende rekeninge in te voer, optiese merke te lees om die eerste en laaste bladsy van 'n rekening te bepaal, bladsye van een rekening saam te voeg, te vou, in 'n verskerper te plaas en toe te plak. Daarna word die posstuk deur die frankemasjien gevoer om die korrekte seëlgeld te verhaal.

Pule Mothabeng, Hoofbeampte: Posafdeling en Dokumentasie vir die Hoof- en Owaqwa-kampus, noem dit nie verniet die 'Gautrein' nie. Die masjien kan nou sewe A4-velle vou en in 'n koerter plaas, teenoor die een van die vorige masjien. Waar een versending van 'n studenterekening van twee of meer bladsye in die verlede in verskillende koertere ingevoeg en gepos is, kan die saamgevoegde rekening nou in een koerter uitgaan, met die dienoreenkomstige vermindering aan koerter- en seëlgeld.

Dink maar aan die koste wat met 34 000 studenterekeninge (27 000 huidige studente plus rekeninge aan agterstallige studente) bespaar kan word. Hierdie 34 000 studenterekeninge was ook met die ingebruikneming van die masjien sy eerste groot toets. "Met hierdie lopie alleen het ons universiteit meer as R50 000 bespaar as in ag geneem word dat die posgeld R2,05 per posstuk beloop," sê prof. Sakkie.

Nadat veral die Afdelings Akademiese Studentediens en Finansies, wat die grootste hoeveelheid massapos aan die Posafdeling lewer, se werk nie meer per hand en met die ou masjien gedoen kon word nie, het prof. Sakkie op 'n dag vir Pule Mothabeng gevra wat die oplossing sou wees. "n Tegnologie oplossing moet gesoek word," was Pule se antwoord. So het 'n blink gedagte eers 'n visie

en toe 'n werklikheid geword.

Sonder die kundigheid van Leon du Toit van Rekenaar Dienste sou die visie egter net 'n halwe produk kon lewer. Volgens prof. Sakkie het Leon daarin geslaag om programmering vir die optiese merkelesingsfunksie te doen, sodat studenterekeninge, wat uit 'n wisselende aantal bladsye kan bestaan, deur die optiese merkeleser van die masjien "gelees" kan word om te verseker dat slegs 'n bepaalde student se rekeningbladsye in een koerter geplaas word. Leon het selfs 'n tweede stel merkeles geprogrammeer om te verseker dat daar 'n tweede kontrole is.

"Hierdie projek is 'n bewys dat verskillende afdelings aan ons universiteit kan saamwerk om te verseker dat 'n stelsel en produk aangekoop word wat 'n groot aantal gebruikers kan help om meer effektief te werk," aldus prof. Sakkie. Die eerste lopie eksamenresultate is al suksesvol deur die masjien en in 'n rekordtyd afgehandel.

'n Toevoeging tot die masjien om bemarkingsmateriaal van verskillende groottes en omvang, asook kompakte skywe wat vanaf die verskillende invoerstate van die masjien meganies in een koerter geplaas word, word tans getoets.

'n Strepieskanderder gaan ook tot die masjien toegevoeg word om adressering van posstukke te vergemaklik en teruggestuurde posstukke van die stelsel af te haal. Baie geld gaan verlore deur posstukke wat weens verskeie redes nie by hul bestemmings afgelewer word nie.

Pule sê die masjien is waarskynlik die enigste in Bloemfontein en daar bestaan 'n moontlikheid dat 'n diens ook aan ander instansies in die stad gelewer kan word.

Pule is passievol oor sy afdeling en sy werk en glo die beste praktyk moet in die werkplek selwer. Daarom ondersoek hy ander aspekte van doeltreffende poslewering op kampus, waaronder 'n beter posdiens aan studente.

"Die visie en missie van ons universiteit moet uitgeleef word. Dit is nie net iets wat op papier moet staan nie," sê Pule. - **Leatitia Pinaar**

- Pule het 'n groot versoek dat alle briewe wat gepos moet word van 'n afsendersadres voorsien moet word. Die interne posbus kan bokant die UV-wapen aan die voorkant of met 'n departementele stempel aangebring word.



Die 'Gautrein' word gevoer. Hier is, van links: Michael Tshelisi, Lucas Shapu, Pule Mothabeng, Leon du Toit en prof. Sakkie Steyn. Pule en Michael is reeds vaardige operateurs van die masjien wat poshantering by ons universiteit aansienlik gaan vergemaklik.

# Break the **silence**, fight the stigma

**S**o what's really new, you may ask about the focus on HIV/Aids at our university. Let me share with you a few of the exciting developments. According to Rev. Kestie Jafftha, Chief Director, Community Service, the Executive Management has approved a proposed institutional response and strategic plan to combat the HIV/Aids pandemic on the campus. "This entails an integrated approach towards different foci such as: students, staff, community service, curriculum integration, research, and management and information systems," he said.

A new institutional forum was established and started with the roll-out of the strategic plan.

The Kovie HIV/Aids Centre has also been restructured and a new organisational structure has been implemented. "By 1 July 2009 a new Centre Manager, two Coordinators for HIV/Aids Prevention Programmes and two Voluntary Confidential Counselling and Testing (VCCT) Guidance Officers will be appointed. Two of the appointees will be working on the Owaqwa Campus," Rev. Jafftha said.

The offices of the Kovie HIV/Aids Centre are currently being upgraded and will now provide dedicated facilities for training, Voluntary Counselling and Testing as well as other related professional services. On completion these facilities will contribute to the creation of a more conducive environment for all the envisaged services to be provided.

Estelle Heideman is currently acting as manager and has big dreams for the centre. "HIV/Aids has always been a highly stigmatised disease, and this continues to impact negatively on people working in HIV/Aids-related fields, programmes and centres. My dream is that the restructured centre will be able to reverse these trends."

"Some of the things I would like to see happening at the centre include improved visibility; coordinated services on all three campuses, a centre free of stigma and accessible to all students and staff, a place that students and staff will feel comfortable visiting, and a centre that will become a leader in its field among South African universities and universities in general. Also in our plans for 2009 and beyond is an increase in the number of students and staff visiting the centre, sustainable HIV/Aids projects in the communities and individual intervention programmes run by students and staff," said Estelle.

"We often hear that people suffer from Aids fatigue and are tired of HIV/Aids

messages. However, a more in-depth look into the situation reveals the ever pressing need for accurate and trustworthy information," Estelle said.

She added, "The centre aims to provide accurate information through the various training programmes that will continue to be offered. Short courses in Life Skills HIV/Aids, Care and Support and Basic Counselling Skills in HIV/Aids will be offered at the request of students and staff as well as communities."

"The passionate centre staff will continue to recruit and train student and staff peer educators who will offer their services on a voluntary basis to their peers in their respective environments."

Another service rendered at the centre is confidential counselling and testing. HIV/Aids, like any other chronic illness, is a manageable and treatable condition, provided that one's status is known. Confidential counselling and testing forms an integral part of the services offered by the centre. Within the new structure, provision has been made for a professional nurse and HIV/Aids counsellor that will make it possible to deliver these services even more effectively, including referrals and access to support groups.

Estelle invites all staff members to visit their revamped offices. "We can ensure you of a friendly and supportive environment with competent staff to attend to your HIV/Aids and other related concerns," she said.

Estelle is also currently involved in community projects, including a farm project in the Southern Free State where farm workers are trained to deal with the impact of HIV/Aids more effectively. This forms part of our university's Free State Rural Development Partnership Programme. "In support of this we also run a six-week HIV/Aids skills-building programme with farmers' wives at Springfontein. The objective is to equip them with information and skills to form a support network for community members and act as a link with our university for future support," said Estelle.

Taryn Neil, also involved at the HIV/Aids Centre, has recently been selected as a fellow for the MAC Aids Fund Leadership Initiative of Columbia University and UCLA, in partnership with the Human Sciences Research Council in South Africa. The Leadership Initiative is a one-year programme designed to cultivate emerging leaders in South Africa who will make a major contribution to HIV/Aids prevention advocacy at local, regional and national levels. Taryn will undergo two months' training in various venues in South Africa and during this time she will refine her HIV/Aids prevention plan, which focuses on developing the emotional intelligence of adolescents and in doing so prevent the spreading of HIV. She also plans to develop a mentoring programme. At the end of 2008, Estelle was also a recipient of the same scholarship.

"Be on the look-out for a more concerted effort to involve all Kovies to destigmatise HIV/Aids and enhance positive life styles. Get involved and you will share in the benefits of this new endeavour," Rev. Jafftha said.

## STOP THE VIRUS

"We are all affected by HIV/Aids. Each one of us can help stop the spread of HIV and reduce the impact of Aids," Estelle said. We can do this by:

- Taking control of our own lives and get tested.
- Protecting oneself and others from the HIV infection.
- Welcoming someone with HIV into one's life or talk about HIV/Aids to break the silence and ultimately fight the stigma.
- Becoming involved in one of the activities, projects or campaigns offered by the centre.

Training will be offered to staff from the Chief Directorate Community Service and will cover topics such as attitudes regarding HIV/Aids, value clarification and stigma. From the Chief Directorate Community Service are Nada Laurie, Dr Retha du Plessis, Estelle Heideman, Rev. Kestie Jafftha, Taryn Neil, Martie van der Merwe, Dalene Harris, Belina Nicodemus and Lotfi Mogore.





1 International Aids Candle Light Memorial Service.

2 Nineteen staff members from our university were trained by the Aids in the Workplace Training Group in 2008 to fulfil the role of HIV/Aids staff peer educators. The role of the staff peer educators is to educate staff members from our university about HIV/Aids and to act as a link between staff members and the HIV/Aids Centre. The peer educators have been assigned different departments at the university and will be joining in the fight against the spreading of HIV/Aids. The peer educators are, from the left, front: Lisa Roma, Meagan Jacobs; back: Pulane Malefane, Maggie Tsolo and Chris Bunyonyo.

3 Getting everyone involved. World Aids Day celebrations on the farm Schietfontein in the Philippolis District.

4 Getting tested; Jemina Nonhle from New Star and George Masuku, first-year LLB student.

## Safety first in genetically modified crops

In its pursuit of excellence our university became "the only one of its kind in South Africa and a leader in its field in Africa" when it established a Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) Testing Facility, according to Prof. Chris Viljoen, Head of Human Molecular Biology in the Department of Haematology and Cell Biology in the Faculty of Health Sciences. The Department of Haematology and Cell Biology is also home to our GMO Testing Facility.

"This facility was established in 2003 to perform routine GM detection of grain and food products in South Africa. The activities also include research into the biosafety of GM crops," Prof. Chris said.

Prof. Chris recently received a grant of R3 284 million from the National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) to do research on the biosafety of genetically modified crops in South Africa. The grant forms part of a collaborative agreement between South Africa and Norway on the biosafety of genetically modified organisms. A delegation with representatives from the Royal Norwegian Embassy, the Department of Environmental Affairs and Tourism (DEAT) and the National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI) paid a courtesy visit to the facility to discuss the project as well as visit ongoing field trials.

This research will focus on gene flow between genetically modified (GM) maize and non-GM maize and the potential impact thereof on the development of insect resistance. The grant also makes provision for two M.Sc. bursaries as well as a regional biosafety workshop.

Prof. Viljoen, who is Head of Human Molecular Biology in the Department of Haematology and Cell Biology, says it is an honour to be selected to take part in the project, which is groundbreaking in terms of the post-release monitoring of GM maize on the environment. The project was initiated in 2009 and will run until the end of 2010.

The multi-institutional research includes partners from our university, research groups from the University of North-West and the University of Fort Hare, as well as SANBI and GenZk, the Norwegian Centre for Gene Ecology. - **Leatitia Pienaar**

Prof. Chris Viljoen.



PHOTO: HANNE PETERSE



Prof. Zakkie Pretorius, Chairperson of our Department of Plant Sciences, received the CH Person Gold Medal for his contribution to the academic field of Plant Pathology in South Africa at the conference of the Southern African Society for Plant Pathology (SASPP) that was held at Gordons Bay. The medal – the Society's highest award – was only awarded for the fifth time. Our congratulations go to Prof. Zakkie. This award is proof of the excellence of our academics. Prof. Neal McLaren, also from the Department of Plant Sciences, received an award for Plant Pathology on the same occasion.

- **Lacea Loader**

Prof. Zakkie Pretorius.

## All he touches turns to gold

### 50 Jaar van mikrobiologie gevier

Ons universiteit streef altyd na uitnemendheid, asook om relevante wetenskaplike onderrig aan sy studente te lewer. Voorwaar 'n wenresep vir 'n suksesvolle loopbaan, sou jy jouself 'n student van hierdie universiteit noem.

Dit is onlangs tydens die Departement Mikrobiëse, Biochemiese en Voedselbiotegnologie se 50-jaar verjaardagsvieringe bewys toe prof. James du Preez, hoof van hierdie departement, die volgende geë het: "Dit was interessant om tydens die reünie te hoor van die verskeidenheid van beroepe wat oudstudente van die departement beklee, onder andere by ander tersiêre opvoedingsinstansies, die WNNR, SAPPI, Sasol en veelvuldige ander nywerhede, asook by navorsingsinstansies in die VSA en Australië." Om vir soveel jaar reeds uitnemendende onderrig in hierdie veld te gee, is bewys van die trotse akademiese gaskeiens van ons universiteit.

Die departement se vyftigste verjaardag is op 'n kisterryke wyse gevier met 'n Darwin-gedenklesing getiteld *The origin of life: Exactly how did life begin?* gevolg deur 'n saamtrede die daaropvolgende dag van huidige en oud-personeel en nagraadse studente van die departement tydens 'n braaivleis. Die viering is afgesluit met 'n spogdienee wat deur 153 personeel, nagraadse studente (huidige en oud) en ander gaste bygewoon is.

Teenwoordig by die geleentheid was al die hoofde/voorsitters van die departement sedert sy stigting in 1959, met die uitsondering van prof. Hans Potgieter wat vanaf 1959-1962 as waarnemende hoof opgetree het. - **Lacea Loader**



PHOTO: STEPHEN COULTY

Die eerste departementshoof en daaropvolgende departementele voorsitters tydens die dienee. Van links: prof. Bernard Rippe (1991-1999), Piet Lategan (1999-2002), Derek Lithauer (1998-2002), en James du Preez (2002-).



### SPESIALISEER IN KORTTERMYNVERSEKERING SPECIALISING IN SHORT-TERM INSURANCE

Kontak ons by Contact us at Tel: 051 447 6877  
Fax: (051) 447 6766  
e-mail: info@mooitree.co.za

Full insurance covering your personal and business risks, efficient settlement and risk management, suit let let for premium or a (pre)defined sum.

Excellent service delivery through personal contact, efficient claims and risk management, which results in lower premiums to give you peace of mind.





Pheneas Nkundaba-Kura.

## Astrophysics reaches into space

True to our mission to promote an academic culture, the students and staff from our Astrophysics Division (in the Department of Physics) have excelled and are enjoying national and international recognition for their work.

"Students from my astrophysics group are working with all the major telescopes in the country, i.e. SALT, HartRao and HESS and we are extending our observational programme to the major telescopes in the world. We are the only astrophysics group in the country that is working on this scale with multi-wave length astrophysics. This has given our university a tremendous boost in terms of the academic level on which the students are functioning," said Prof. Pieter Meentjes, Head of the Astrophysics Division.

One of the students, Dr Louis Venter, is doing his postdoctoral studies at the Meudon Observatory in Paris, France. He is one of the three panelists of the High Energy Stereoscopic System (HESS) appointed to establish the future site hosting the Cerenkov Telescope Array (CTA). This Cerenkov telescope array will be the high-energy gamma-ray equivalent of the radio square kilometre array (SKA). The CTA project has already been given the green light as a flagship project for the European Union. The panel is looking at areas in Argentina, Namibia and South Africa (Graft-Reinet). The HESS1 telescopes are situated in

the Gamsberg, Namibia.

Pheneas Nkundaba-Kura, a Ph.D. student in Astrophysics from Rwanda, was the first student at our university to be granted research time at the CTIO Observatory in Chile, which hosts some of the largest telescopes in the world. Pheneas, who is studying radiation from black holes, is currently analysing data which he received from the CTIO observatory. This data confirmed the hypothesis he proposed that two of the objects he is studying for his Ph.D. contains super-massive black holes emitting photons with energy trillions of times higher than visible light.

Prof. Pieter is a renowned expert in astrophysical fluid dynamics. He is also a member of the steering committee of the National Astrophysics and Space Science Programme (NASSP). He is part of the new improved HESS 2 project that is looking at upgrading the telescopes to the spectacular new generation CTA telescopes. He is also member of the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) and MeerKAT. Earlier this year, Prof. Pieter delivered his inaugural lecture at our university. In this lecture he focused on the fascinating properties of white dwarfs, neutron stars and black holes, and their multi-wavelength emission up to the highest energy gamma rays. - **Lacea Loader**

"I am delighted and humbled," said Dr Olihile Sebolai, who was recently appointed as Deputy Director of the Grow Our Own Timber (GOOT) Programme that prepares graduate students for future roles as faculty members.

Olihile, a proud product of GOOT, received international recognition as a student in Microbial, Biochemical and Food Biotechnology for his ground-breaking research into a series of compounds that may be used to lubricate man-made nanorobots.

Referring to his appointment at GOOT, he stated that it came with a lot of responsibility. "However, I am blessed to have an excellent team in my corner. The appointment is also testament to the appropriate developmental support provided by the GOOT Programme towards delivering excellent fellows."

Recently our university undertook an exercise to reposition itself in order to ensure that research becomes its core business. Olihile said that, to achieve this, programmes and support systems ought to be re-aligned or re-orientated towards a strategic focus to further advance and strengthen the repositioning, amongst others. As part of the re-alignment, the GOOT Programme was also placed under the Directorate of Research Development.

According to Olihile the research knowledge at the UFS resides with academics who will be retiring in the next five to ten years. This is also a trend at other institutions of higher learning in South Africa. The GOOT Programme serves as a "tool" for addressing the challenge of loss of "brain power" at our university. "Thus, the primary

purpose of the GOOT Programme is to replenish and deliver competent fellows who will occupy academic posts at the UFS."

"These fellows, as future leading academics, will contribute towards elevating the standing and enhancing the image of our university. In other words, the programme aims to grow timber that will provide shade to the university."

There is already a lot to celebrate. The programme has successfully assisted:

- Eleven fellows to obtain a master's degree and 13 to obtain a doctoral degree (further contributing to the academic labour force at our university);
- a number of fellows financially to read their research work at national and international conferences. Some fellows won prizes for their work at conferences, which is testament to the quality of research conducted at the UFS; and
- fellows to occupy academic and other posts at our university. They include, amongst others, Dr Sethulego Matebesi, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Sociology, and Dr Choice Makhetha, the Acting Dean for Student Affairs.

- **Leatitia Pienaar**

Dr Olihile Sebolai.

## GOOT provides shade for the UFS, says Olihile



PHOTO: HANNEKE PETERSE

Prof. Nico Luwes.

## Drama impacts arts and culture in the province

Our university's Department of Drama and Theatre Arts proved to have a strong profile in our province. Its active involvement in the arts and culture scene of the Free State supports this statement. At the recent South African Theatre Initiative Indaba the then MEC for Sports, Arts and Culture in the Free State, Mr Khotso Sesele, expressed his appreciation for the role that the department is playing to promote arts and culture in the province. He voiced his desire for Sports, Arts, Culture, Technology and Science (SACTS) to strengthen its relationship with our university's Department of Drama and Theatre Arts.

The department played a supportive role as trainer, patron, mentor and spokesperson in the performing arts sector. Some of its staff members also serve on various boards and panels within the sector. Prof. Nico Luwes, Head of this Department, Stephanie Brink and Emmie van Wyk were all appointed on the board of the Performing Arts Council of the Free State (PACOF).

You will also hear our staff's voices in the corridors where national policies are developed and managed. Prof. Nico established the Performing Arts Network of South Africa (PANSA) in the Free State and lecturer

and artist, Kingdom Moshounyane, chaired the Free State Youth Arts Council. Emmie is currently researching policy development and has been appointed on a panel of the National Arts Council (NAC) and SATI Task Team – presenting the Free State's performing artists at national level.

Prof. Nico, who has received numerous awards over the past three decades for his work as lecturer, director, writer and actor, has also worked hard to initiate various bursary allocations to underprivileged drama students and job creation projects for unemployed artists.

Not only are the staff's voices heard in conference rooms but they are also making a name for themselves on the national stage. Godfrey Manenye, a young and upcoming lecturer in the department and also artist and director, is stealing the limelight with his vibrant township musicals of excellence – also performed at the Grahamstown Festival.

The department regularly participates in performances at national arts festivals. Three productions from the department are annually selected for the Klein Karoo Nasionale Kunstfees (KKNK), Volksblad and Aardklop Festivals.

At the Volksblad Arts Festival, Dr Pieter Venter, Senior Lecturer in the Department, served as technical

manager for seven years, and he is still the technical coordinator of the Sanlam Proys vir Afrikaanse Toneel (SPAT). He is also a member of the selection panels of the Logan Tienertoneelfees and the Volksblad Arts Festival.

If an arts festival does not interest you, you can enjoy a theatre experience with all that Club Theatron has to offer. This initiative that was recently recreated to align with the best Higher Education Institution theatre clubs by Thys Heydenrych, lecturer and arts practitioner and strives towards making theatre more accessible to the entire community.

Not only are our productions of high artistic standard but our Wynand Mouton and Scaena Theatres are venues of choice for youth projects such as Reza de Wet's Tienertoneelfees, the ATKV Tienertoneelfees, Grahamstown Schools Festival, various speech and drama examinations, and performances of local dance, vocal schools and revue groups.

Whether it is production, acting, directing, designing or education, our Department of Drama and Theatre Arts not only ranks with the best, the "quality" concept runs deep in its veins. The numerous awards and prizes that the department has received over the years is proof of that! – **Emmie van Wyk**



# Darwin lectures evolve into success

Charles Darwin and his extraordinary life and theory of evolution have grabbed the imagination of people around the world. It has captured audiences and become the topic of discussion during many events.

Darwin has also done the same at our university and has captivated not only our staff and students, but also a wide audience off campus. "Our initial idea of presenting only one lecture during the year turned into a year-long celebration of the story of life and survival," said Prof. Jo van As, Head of our Department of Zoology and Entomology and organiser of the lectures. Our university's

year-long programme to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Darwin and the 150th anniversary of the publication of his scientifically important book *On The Origin of Species* started on 12 February this year.

"After five lectures and about 1 700 people attending we are almost halfway through the programme and the interest is still growing. Almost all of the lectures had a full attendance – we even had to make arrangements for extra seats at some of the lectures. It is really a phenomenal success," said Prof. Jo.

The aim of the lecture series is to portray the influence of Darwin's theory of evolution on a wide range of disciplines. Prof. Jo attributes the success to the fact that Darwin's theory of evolution is a topic of interest to most people. "People don't talk about evolution and some are scared of the concept. They must find a way to rationalise the concept and decide whether they accept it or not. Our lectures have given them a platform where they can obtain a better understanding thereof," said Prof. Jo.

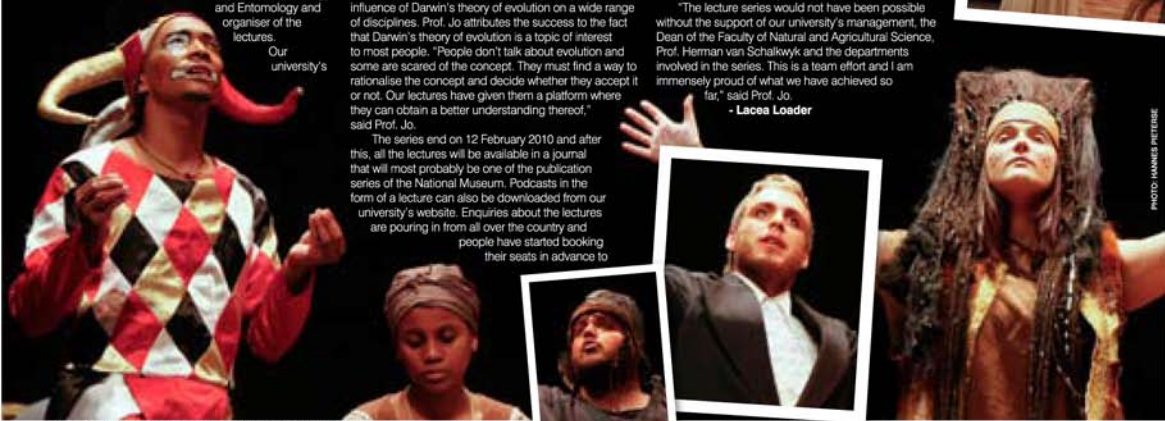
The series end on 12 February 2010 and after this, all the lectures will be available in a journal that will most probably be one of the publication series of the National Museum. Podcasts in the form of a lecture can also be downloaded from our university's website. Enquiries about the lectures are pouring in from all over the country and people have started booking their seats in advance to

ensure they have place.

Another result of the lecture series is the allegorical play by Prof. Nico Luwes, "Don't shoot the messenger!" from our Department of Drama and Theatre Arts. The play had its premiere in March and, because of its popularity, was performed at our university's open day. It tells the story of Darwin who is confronted with ancient Greek knowledge in the form of the character Ancient Academicus. The play will be performed again at the Volksblad Arts Festival, which will take place on our Main Campus from 14–19 July.

"The lecture series would not have been possible without the support of our university's management, the Dean of the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Science, Prof. Herman van Schalkwyk and the departments involved in the series. This is a team effort and I am immensely proud of what we have achieved so far," said Prof. Jo.

- Lacey Loader



Scenes from the play: "Don't shoot the messenger".

## Prof. Donna helps us walk the talk

Developing the total student as part of its academic culture is one of our university's mission statements. This includes the development of our students' language proficiency, a major role player in our students' success rates.

Recently an American expert on Content-based Language Instruction, Prof. Donna Brinton from the University of California's Centre for World Languages in Los Angeles, had several meetings and discussions with staff at our university as part of an effort to promote language proficiency among students. She also focused on techniques that the lecturer could use in the content areas to make content more accessible to our second-language students.

Language development is a crucial academic function on campus as the university has to find meaningful ways of addressing students' needs in this regard so as to improve the throughput rate.

A year ago, Dr Ariys van Wyk of the Language Development Section of the Department of English approached Prof. Donna for help, because there was a great need for lecturers to receive assistance to adapt teaching and learning approaches so that second-language learners' needs were met in the content areas.

François Marais, Director of the Centre for Higher Education Studies (CHESD), is painfully aware of the important role language proficiency plays in the teaching

and learning situation and that the institution wants to increase its assistance to students and staff members in this regard. The recent audit of our university has shown that students struggle with language; therefore an opportunity was created to exchange ideas with an expert.

Lecturers in various fields, as well as coordinators, facilitators, counsellors and administration staff of the Career Preparation Programme, a flagship project of our university, attended workshops and seminars presented by Prof. Brinton. She presented hands-on examples of methods that could be used to present content to students whose mother tongue is not English. With its focus on content delivery as well as language instruction, this form of instruction is based on the belief that students can and do acquire language through challenging content, assuming that teachers are able to deliver this content appropriately to the learning styles and proficiency level of the students.

Prof. Brinton is the co-author and co-editor of several publications. She has trained many teachers and lecturers on a short-term basis in various countries in, among others, the Far East, South America, Africa and Eastern European countries. - Leatitia Pienaar



Prof. Donna Brinton en Dr Ariys van Wyk.

g  
gebeure

Sterre blink **helder**  
by gradeplegtigheid





FOTO'S: HANNEKE PETERSE, STEPHEN COLLET, JACQUELYN

Ons universiteit het weer eens sy akademiese uitnemendheid tydens vanjaar se herfsgrade- en diplomaplegthied gevier. Tydens die altesaam 3 390 grade, 640 diplomas en 25 doktorsgrade wat toegeken is, het 'n aantal studente erkenning vir hul uitsonderlike prestasies ontvang.

Een van hierdie studente is Albert Nell. Hy het 13 pryse tydens die Fakulteit Regsgesleerdheid se prysfunksie ontvang. Dit is die meeste pryse wat nog ooit by 'n prysuitdeling van die fakulteit aan een student toegeken is. Voorts het Albert 'n gemiddeld van oor die 90% oor die vier jaar vir sy LLB-kursus behaal. Dit is die eerste keer in die geskiedenis van hierdie fakulteit dat 'n student sodanig presteer. Hierdie fakulteit wat vanjaar sy eeufeesjaar vier, het ook die meeste studente (13) wat die LLB-grad met lof slaag, opgelewer.

"Goëie more, Good morning, Durnela," sê Frans Makhele. Frans van die Sentrum vir Hoërsonderwysstudies en -ontwikkeling (SHOSO), het sy BA-Honneursgrad in Tale tydens die gradeplegthied ontvang. Sy vrou Anna het hierdie hoogtepunt in sy lewe saam met hom gevier.

'n Verdere hoogtepunt was toe 'n groep van 15 studente die Gestruktureerde MA-grad (Hoërsonderwysstudie) ontvang het. Dit is die grootste groep ooit wat

hierdie kwalifikasie tydens 'n gradeplegthied ontvang het. Vier van hierdie studente het ook onderskeidings behaal. Ook interessant is dat ses van die 15 studente reeds oor doktorsgrade beskik. Een van hierdie studente, me. Liesl Hoare van die Sentrale Universiteit van Tegnologie (Welkom-kampus) is as die beste presteerder aangewys. Sy het ook 'n Dekansmedalje in die Fakulteit Geesteswetenskappe as die beste meestersgraadstudent ontvang sowel as die Kowie Alumni-trust se toekennings as die beste Magister Artium-student in die fakulteit. Daarbenewens het sy die SHOSO-prys vir die beste prestasie in die MA-grad (Hoërsonderwysstudie) ontvang.

Tydens vanjaar se herfsgradeplegthied het ons ook die eerste meestersgrade in Sportgeneeskunde toegeken. Dit is die eerste keer in die geskiedenis van ons universiteit dat meestersgrade in hierdie dissipline toegeken word.

Uit ons eie gelede het Hendrik Langley, Senior Assistentbeambte by Klasgelede, die grad B.Com. Rekeningkunde verwel.

Die grade- en diplomaplegthied is vanjaar op die Suidkampus (voorheen bekend as die Vista-kampus) gehou weens die grootskaalse oeknapping wat die Callie Human-sentrum tans op die Hoofkampus ondergaan. - **Leonie Bolleurs**



## Astro's se drumpels word deurgetrap

Ons verbeterde sportgenewe, waaronder die twee hokkie-astrobane tel, het nie net ons universiteit se kapasiteit om meer nasionale en internasionale gebeure te huisves, vergroot nie, maar as universiteit van uitnemendheid word ons nou onder die beste sportinstellings gereken.

Drie Kovie-hokkiekursusse van drie dae elk is onder meer die afgelope Aprilvakansie op die astro's aangebied. 'n Totaal van 904 kinders, afkomstig van 41 tophokkerskole in Suid-Afrika, wat strek van Waterkloof in Pretoria tot Kokstad en ook so ver as Richardsbaai, het die kursusse bygewoon. Gregg Clark, die nasionale manshokkie-afrigter, was die kursusleier.

Vier-en-dertig studente het ook as hulpaftrigters tydens die hokkiekursusse opgetree. Frans van der Watt van KovieSport sê dat hy verskeie briewe ontvang het met baie positiewe terugvoer oor die afrigting wat die kinders ontvang het. Die studente sal weer in Julie in die Paarl by afrigting betrokke wees.

Ons universiteit het ook die meer onlangse Suid-Afrikaanse onder-21 hokkietoernooi wat deur die Vrystaat-hokkievereniging gereël word, gehuisves.

Sestien provinsies in totaal het aan hierdie hokkietoernooi deelgeneem.

Volgens Frans is vyf van ons universiteit se spelers in die Vrystaat onder-21 hokkiespan ingesluit. Ons universiteit is verder betrokke by Vrystaathokkie deurdat die UV-afrigter, Elsie Coetzee, ook die Vrystaat onder-21 span afrig. Verder is Annelize van der Merwe, 'n personeelid by ons Sentrum vir Holanderwysstudies en -ontwikkeling (SHOSO), die president van Vrystaathokkie.

Een van ons universiteit se Bourekenkundestudente, Cheré Smit, is die kaptein van die Vrystaat onder-21 span.

Ons betrokkeheid by hokkie in Suid-Afrika strek selfs verder as die provinsie. Die sameroeper van die Suid-Afrikaanse kookomites vir hokkie is Braam van Wyk. Hy is ook die afrigter van ons universiteit se manshokkiespan. As tesourier is Frans self ook 'n lid van die Uitvoerende Bestuur van Suid-Afrikaanse hokkie.

Vroeër vanjaar het ons die wêreldhokkiekampioene gehuisves en in Julie vanjaar sal ons weer die oerfuitste wees vir die USSA-toernooi met meer as 28 tersiere spanne. Met die toernooi in blootstelling – ook te danke aan UV-Bemarking – word ons astro's se spreekwoordelike drumpel nou behoorlik deurgetrap! - **Leonie**

**Bolleurs**

## Prof. Voet voltooi tiende Argus ondanks Suidooster se kou

Ons universiteit is 'n plek van uitnemendheid met personeel wat uitnemende dinge aanpak – ook buite die akademiese. Prof. Voet du Plessis, Hooft van die Departement Handelsreg, het vanjaar, 'n paar maande voor sy 65ste verjaarsdag vir 'n tiende keer die 109 km Cape Argus Pick 'n Pay-fietswedren voltooi.

Soos met alle goeie dinge in die lewe is hierdie mynloopprestasie egter nie sommers ingesalm nie. Dit het harde werk en deursettingsvermoë gekos, want die stormstreek Suidooster van tot 65 km/h het dit vir niemand maklik gemaak nie.

Prof. Voet vertel: "Vanjaar se Argus was een van die moeilikste wedrenne ooit. Die Suidooster het ouens gewaai dat hulle hie, Reeds met die wegspring het die wind al 'n paar mense van hul fiets afgehaal. Alhoewel ek die wedren voltooi het, het ek die heesheid met die wind gesprok. Ons het nooit regtig die wind regtig van agter af gekry nie, en met gelykpaasie en selfs afdaandes moes ons hard trap om forns te kom."

"Te midde van die wind se gekou en gekou en 'n slegter tyd as ooit, het ek steeds die wedren geniet. Ek ry nie om 'n goeie tyd te haal nie, maar eerder om die natuurskoon te geniet en die Kaapse natuurskoon met sy sand, see en vallei, soos besigtig van onder meer Boyes Drive by Simonstad, Chapman's Peak en Kaapput, by maar 'n mooi gesig."

Ongeveer 40 000 mense durf jaarliks hierdie fietswedren in die Kaapse skiereiland aan. Met die wind van voor is dit durt wat jy nodig het. "Maar jy moet ook fietsies wees," waarsku prof. Voet. "Spinning"-klasse in die week en 80 km op sy bergfiets op die oop pad op Saterdag sit nie net stamina in jou bene nie, maar help jou ook om die saal gewoond te raak. "Want so 'n saal kan hard raak na so 100 km en meer," sê hy.

Gaan hy weer so maak? Die Suidooster trotseer? Sy ja-antwoord weerklank in 'n Afrikaanse liedjie "My Kaapse nonnatjie roep my, sy roep my en ek moet gaan ..." - **Leonie Bolleurs**



Prof. Voet du Plessis.

PHOTO ACTION/PHOTO



## Soke and Jonas make Kovies proud

Our university is on track with its achievements in the sports arena, excelling provincially, nationally and internationally. The recent achievements of Boy Soke, a B.Com. Hons. student, and Windy Jonas, student in the Career Preparation Programme, are living proof of this.

As far as they run they make Kovies proud. Recently Soke and Jonas represented South Africa in the Cross-Country World Championships in Jordan. Soke participated as a senior competitor in the 12 km cross-country discipline and Jonas as a junior in the 8 km cross-country discipline. Prior to that, they had both participated in the South African Senior Championships in Stellenbosch where Soke, for the third time in a row, won the 5000 m track and field. At this event, Jonas ran his personal best, in the 1500 m, improving his previous best time by six seconds.

Earlier this year, Soke also won the Southern Regional Cross-Country Championships that were held in Mauritius, beating his peers from Zambia, Malawi and Mauritius. He was also the captain of the South African team.

Soke participates and excels in three disciplines, namely cross-country, track and field, and road running. Jonas also participates in track and field and cross-country and was recently introduced to road running by Soke.

Although he excels in all three disciplines Soke feels most comfortable in cross-country. "It was the first item that I excelled in. In 2004 I won the South African Cross-Country Championships that were held at Tempe here in Bloemfontein."

Jonas added: "My favourite discipline is track and field. I received my first SA colours in track and field at the South African Schools Championships that were held in Sasolburg in 2006." As proof of these successes, Jonas has a silver and bronze medal to show. Jonas is also a triple medalist. At the Commonwealth Games that took place in India in 2006 he received a gold medal for the 800 m, a silver medal for the 4 x 400 m, and a bronze medal for the 1500 m.

"I started running at the Kletsberg Primary School in Welkom where I grew up when I was a boy of about nine years old. After primary school I only picked up on running in the 11th Standard B," Soke said. The rest is history. After school he registered as a student at our South Campus, previously known as the Vista Campus, where he continued to excel in athletics.

Excelling at and representing not only our university but also our country in the three disciplines mentioned earlier, are but some of Soke's highlights. Last year, he participated in Brazil (half-marathon), Scotland (cross-country) and Ethiopia (track and field). Although he crosses the globe with his running, Soke prefers to run at home. "The long hours of travelling are not my cup of tea," he says.

Another highlight in his athletics career was him being elected as Kovies Sportsman of the year in 2008.

Except for his three medals, Jonas, a former learner of HTS Louis Botha, also tasted success in his athletics career. "I started out as a sprinter at age 10. Since then, athletics has been my life. I am experiencing all the difficulties but also all the joys of life through athletics," Jonas said.

Why Kovies? "It was close to home and Kovies was also home to long-distance legends Hendrik Thugwane and Stephen Phiri." Soke said. The location of Kovies clinched the deal for Jonas, who loves living in the centre of South Africa. "And I have good training mates," he adds.

"Let me go and put my make-up on," Windy jokingly concludes. The show must go on and they are the stars... - **Leonie Bolleurs**



Windy Jonas and Boy Soke.

PHOTO: HANNE PETERSE

## Spain heading for Kovies

The European football champions, Spain, will be training at our university's Shmida Park for their FIFA Confederation Cup matches against Bafana Bafana and Iraq in June this year.

According to the Director of KovieSport, James Letuka, an agreement was signed between our university and the Local Organising Committee (LOC), which stipulated the requirements that had to be met. One of the stipulations agreed upon was the over-seeding of Shmida Park.

According to FIFA's specifications, the surface of the practice venue must be of the same quality as the stadium where the actual game will be played.

Our university also agreed

on making the rugby posts at Shmida Park removable, similar to the rugby posts at Vodacom Park. Both these actions will benefit our university.

"We are honoured to be hosting such a great team at our university and take pride in the fact that our facilities are of such a high standard that the national football team from Spain will be training at our university," James said.

Spain won the Euro 2008 tournament last year when they beat Germany 1-0. The team boasts a number of top-class players who play for the leading clubs of Europe, including Fernando Torres, Cesc Fabregas and Xavi Hernandez, to name a few.

The European champions will play against Iraq on 17 June and against Bafana Bafana on 20 June. The venue for all the Bloemfontein games is the revamped Vodacom Park. - **Leonie Bolleurs**





## Hans ontvang eerste NNS-gradering in die kunste

**H**ans Huyssen, verbond aan ons Departement Musiek, se harde werk is beloon toe hy die uitsonderlike prestasie behaal het om 'n graderingsstatus by die afdeling Monitoring en Evaluering van die Nasionale Navorsingsstigting (NNS) te verwerf. Hierdie prestasie is nie net 'n veer in sy hoed nie, maar is ook 'n bewys van die akademiese van hoogstaande gehalte wat ons universiteit oplewer.

Hans, 'n senior lektor by die Departement Musiek, is 'n opgeleide tjellis, komponis en dirigent. Hy is al vir 'n aantal jare aktief betrokke in die veld van navorsing en musiek. Sy werk word toegelig deur die diverse pole van vroeë, kontemporêre, Europese en Afrika-musiek. Sy histories-ingelitte uitvoerings streef daarna om persoonlik, outentiek, en gevolglik modern te wees. Sy eie komposisies het hul samehangendheid te danke aan sy diepgaande kennis van die Barokretoriek, selfs in sy strukturele gebruik van Afrika-elemente. Hans is al by herhaling as 'n ambassadeur tussen twee wêreldes beskryf.

Hans het sy NNS-gradering verwerf nadat hy sy navorsingsoutsette, wat hy die afgelope sewe jaar in sy vakgebied gelewer het, voorgelê het en dit deur beide nasionale en internasionale evalueerders beoordeel is. Die C-graderingsstatus wat hy ontvang het, word soggewol deur die NNS omskryf: "Hans tel as 'n gewestigde navorsers met 'n volgehous onlangse rekord van produktiwiteit in die vakgebied wat deur eweknieë erken word as kwaliteitswerk met die kern wat saamhang en getuig van volgehous betrokkenheid by die vakgebied. Sy werk is 'n bewys van die vermoë om uitdaginge te konseptualiseer en navorsingsmetodes toe te pas en te ondersoek".

Evaluering en gradering van navorsers in die natuurwetenskappe dateer terug tot 1984, terwyl navorsers in die sosiale en geesteswetenskappe vanaf 2002 aan die proses kon deelneem. Volgens Nico Benson van die Direkoraat: Navorsingsontwikkeling, is Hans die eerste navorsers in een van ons universiteit se kunstede partemente, wat insluit die partemente Musiek, Beeldende Kunste en Drama en Toneelkuns, wat 'n aansoek om evaluering en gradering ingedien het.

Die resultaat van sy unieke en individuele benadering tot die skep van musiek is 'n wye verskeidenheid van diverse projekte, wat poeg om spesifiek gehoor te gee aan die kultureel-diverse, veelvlakkige Suid-Afrikaanse konteks. Volgens die streng eweknieë-evaluering wat deur die NNS gefasiliteer is, het Hans 'n oorspronklike en relevante bydrae as komponis, kunstenaar, regisseur en opvoeder gelewer. Gedurende die tydperk wat beoordeel is, het hy verskeie nuwe werke gekomposeer, wat 'n omgengende nuwe samewerking tussen Westerse en tradisionele Afrika-musikante vereis. Tussen sy baie uitvoerings staan sy opera *MASQUE* beslis uit. Dit is vir die eerste keer in 2005 deur Cape Town Opera in Kaapstad opgevoer en 'n nuwe produksie van die werk in Duitsland is vir 2010 geskeduleer.

## Francois gewapen vir sukses

Op tien-jarige ouderdom het François Toimie junior die degen opgetel om dit uit te probeer en sedertdien het hy hierdie wapen van aristokrate nie weer neergeleë nie. Intendeel, hierdie seun van die Dekaan van die Fakulteit Teologie, prof. François Toimie, het sy pad tot nr. 2 in sy ouderdomsgroep in Suid-Afrika oopgeskerm.

François, 'n Graad 11-leerder van die Hoërskool Jim Fouché, is 'n lid van die Vrystaat Amateur Skermklub wat aan ons universiteit verbond is. Onlangs het hy aan die wêreldkampioenskap wat in Belfast, Ierland, plaasgevind het, deelgeneem. Van die drie Suid-Afrikaners wat deelgeneem het, het François die beste gevaar. Hy het ook 75ste op die wêreldranglys geëindig. Verder was hy verlede jaar die wenner van die Suid-Afrikaanse junior nasionale kampioenskappe.

Maar, sê François junior, hierdie posisie het nie vanself gekom nie. "Hardse werk, doeligheid, en die regte toerusting is noodsaaklik vir sukses en natuurlik ook die ondersteuning van my ouers. Hulle help baie met die reëlings en voorbereidings, asook die finansies," sê hy.

Ek is baie trots op my seun se prestasie," sê pa François met 'n groot glimlag.

Wie het gesê dit is net ons universiteit en sy personeel wat spog met karaktereenskappe van uitnemendheid? Dit blyk dat die appel nie ver van die boom val nie ... - **Leonie Boller**



Prof. Francois Toimie en Francois.

FOTO: HANS MEYER



## AANDMUZIK GUEST HOUSE

*Aandmuzik offers 5 luxury en-suite double bedrooms, and two family rooms with private entrances overlooking the garden and swimming pool.*

*Each room has a Microwave, Fridge, Ironing Unit, Air-conditioning, TV with DSTV.*

*A Traditional continental English Breakfast is served.*

*Secure undercover parking with electric gate and electric fencing.*

### FACILITIES

*Internet, PC & Photocopy facilities*

*Playground for children*

*Tea & Coffee Facilities*

*Bar & Lounge with fireplace*

*Lawn, tennis area and swimming pool*

*Credit Card Facilities*



*Contact : Stella Thomas - 082 647 10 07*

*18 Denner Street, University*

*WALKING DISTANCE FROM UNIVERSITY  
& VODACOM PARK*



# Lucky plant blossoms worldwide

Creativity and perseverance: This is what Prof. Seef Pretorius from our Department of Soil, Crop and Climate Sciences had when he met an elderly German couple 15 years ago. Little did he know that he would become so involved in their discovery of a plant extract that could stimulate the growth of other plants.

Today a product to assist farmers in organic farming systems, which has now led to the development of a similar product for the home and garden industry, has been patented and registered.

The idea originated with a retired German bank manager, Horst Polus, and his wife Gudrun, a biologist. They were intrigued by an observation in the countryside near Heidelberg in Germany one day when they saw dead plants scattered over a large area due to an unknown stress factor. Some plants, however, managed to survive. Intrigued by this observation they wondered what the difference between the plants that survived and those that did not was and sought the assistance of an agricultural engineer Thomas Hüster in an attempt to find the answer.

Horst and Gudrun identified some of the surviving plants, had it collected and started simple experiments in their kitchen. "When I met them, Mr Hüster communicated the discovery and preliminary data to me and asked whether I was prepared to

get involved in further research," said Prof. Seef. Being an expert in natural product development, he offered to assist with the formulation of theories and a possible research approach. "Initially laboratory screening tests were conducted at our university with extracts from the surviving plants brought to South Africa from Germany," he said.

It quickly became clear that the extracts showed great potential to manipulate agricultural crops in terms of growth and resistance towards both abiotic and biotic stress conditions as well as to manipulate specific physiological processes. These initial tests confirmed the observations made by the German couple and Prof. Seef signed a research contract under the auspices of a newly registered closed corporation, Agraforum CC, with Mr Hüster as Director, who supplied the research funds.

"During the 12 years of research that followed it became clear that foliar applications of the prototype product on a variety of crops, including vegetables, fruit and row crops, increased both the resistance of crops towards abiotic and biotic stress factors as well as yields under field conditions," he said. All mechanisms of action were elucidated right up to gene level.

As a result, the name ComCat®, derived from the terms "communication" and "catalyzation"

was patented and registration obtained under EU-regulation for use in organic farming systems. The patent holders converted the closed corporation to a shareholder company, Agraforum AG in 2004, and the product was commercialised two years ago. All the data obtained under South African agricultural conditions were verified in other countries such as China, Vietnam and New Zealand, where commercialisation has also commenced.

Prof. Seef and his team, including Dr Elmarie van der Watt and a number of postgraduate students, however, didn't stop here. "From ComCat®, we developed a second product, Lucky Plant®, for the home and garden industry", he said. The latter induces top growth in pot plants, cut flowers, herbs and shrubs and leads to more flowers, larger flowers and longer flowering time. Additionally, Lucky Plant® also induces resistance towards stress conditions in these plants including turf grass. Lucky Plant® is currently available in nurseries in South Africa and distributed by Elekto.

The role of our university in developing these two products from an observation made by locals was acknowledged on 6 April 2009 in an article appearing in one of the major newspapers in Germany, *Die Welt*, under the heading "Schutzimpfung in Zeiten des Klimawandels entwickelt". - **Lacea Loader**



PHOTO: HANES PRETORIUS

## Weidingkunde se tuin 'n sieraad vir die oog

Ons universiteit streef daarna om 'n plek te wees waar holighele- wetenskapbeoefening en - geleerdheid plaasvind. Op grond hiervan word ons studente nie net met teoretiese kennis toegerus nie, maar kry hulle ook die geleentheid om dit wat hulle geleer het prakties toe te pas. As jy van gras en bossies wil leer, watter beter manier is daar om hierdie kennis toe te pas as om gras en bossies te plant?

Die Departement Vee-, Wild en Weidingkunde het lankal 'n behoefte gehad aan 'n gras/bossietuin vir studenteeopleiding. Weidingkunde is een van vier dissiplines wat in die departement bestudeer word en behels die studie van alle aspekte rakende die gebruik, beskerming en verbetering van weiding en gekultiveerde weivelde.

Die wens na 'n gras/bossietuin het uiteindelik gestalte gekry met die vestiging van verskeie gras- en bossiespesies op die Weskampus, wat welig gegroei het na die afgelope seisoen se goeie reënval. Gideon van Rensburg, vakkundige beampte van hierdie departement, en Andrew Rowles, tegniese hulp in die departement, het hard gewerk om hierdie tuin, wat 'n sieraad vir die oog is, op die perseel van die departement op die Weskampus te lê en te vestig.

Tydens 'n funksie is die tuin amptelik aan die departement bekendgestel.

Andrew Rowles (links) en Gideon van Rensburg (regs) met studente besig met praktiese op die agtergrond.





## "Sterkste boorgat nog" – sê boorman

"Dit is die sterkste boorgat wat ek nog gebore het," het Hendrik Cloete, 'n boorman van Bloemfontein gesê. Dié boorgat is vroeër vanjaar deur die nagraadse studente van ons Instituut vir Grondwaterstudies onder leiding van 'n Ph.D.-student, Charl van der Merwe, vir Lebone-huis by Bloemfontein aangewys.

Lebone-huis, 'n nie-regeringsorganisasie wat na kinders omsien wat deur MIV/Vigs geaffekteer is, wil die water gebruik om die versorgingsentrum uit te brei deur besproeiing vir hul groente tuine in te rig. Die instituut het die boorgat saam met twee ander maatskappye befonds met die ooreenkomste dat die nuut-ingeskrewe

studente van die instituut hul praktyk op die boorgate mag doen. Sodoende lewer ons universiteit 'n diens aan die personeel en kinders van Lebone-huis teny! ons studente terselfdertyd eerstehande kennis van die werking van boorgate kry.

Hendrik het jare se ervaring met boorwerk en volgens hom het hy nog nooit 'n sterker boorgat teëgekome nie. Die boorgat, met 'n lewering van meer as 100 000 liter per uur, is so sterk dat dit nie getoets kon word nie, aangesien die instituut se sterkste pomp slegs 70 000 liter per uur kan lewer. Teen hierdie tempo was die watervlakdaling in die boorgat slegs 0,5 m per uur. - **Cornell Hogan**



Die groep nagraadse studente van ons Instituut vir Grondwaterstudies wat die sterkste boorgat op Lebone-land vroeër vanjaar aangewys het.

# Bultjie

## Ieder woelt hier om verandering – or not?

Dumela, goeiedag and good day!

At the time of writing this, we are four days away from the National Elections and there is excitement in the air. By now when you read these, we all know which party has won the elections and what changes have taken place since then. Probably absolutely nothing! As I was sitting at Vista Campus early in April, patiently waiting for 3 390 degrees, 640 diplomas and 25 doctorates to be conferred, Bultjie thought that at the September Graduation Ceremony we will all be sitting in the same chairs and listening to the same speeches that we've heard for years. Nothing changes! At graduation ceremonies everybody is proud and thankful and the speech will include something like, "Congratulations to all students who achieved their dreams. All graduates remember... this is just the beginning!" (Not said by the Rector, but understood by all staff members as, "Please come back for post-graduate studies as we get more state subsidy for post-graduates!") "We thank all parents for financial and emotional support to your dear ones under difficult circumstances. (Not cried out by the parents but thought by all: "How the HES&GEE have we made it without becoming bankrupt over the last three years?") By this time, all graduates think, "From now on, I will have to get a job, pay for myself and won't

be able to go to Mystic Boer every night!" And post-graduates stare at their study leaders with a mixed feeling of admiration for the help they got on the one hand, and a bit of hate on the other hand, for all the times they had to rework the damn thing that nobody would probably read again!

Then, after the September Graduation Ceremony, we all gather again for the Opening of the University speech! Bultjie will be naughty and go right back to the speech of the calm and gentle Rector, Prof. Wynand Mouton, many, many years ago: "Studente is hier om akademies te ontwikkel tot 'n internasionale standaard aan een van die voorste universiteite in die land. Maar hulle is ook hier om as gebalanseerde volwassenes hier uit te stap en daarom moet hulle deel wees van 'n prettige studentelewe om ook op sosiale, kulturele en sportgebied te ontwikkel as totale, volronde mense! Daarom is daar Jool." I must admit that his speech was slightly adapted over the years by subsequent rectors. We went through "stages of internationalisation" and "moving away from the ivory tower" to "gradual and responsible transformation" and so on. But as with politics, nothing really changes. Promises remain promises and the Callie's seats are as hard as always.

On a more serious note, the above is only half-way true. We do change. Faces change and the Varsity

constantly changes to keep in touch with a changing global world. Experiencing this constant change is probably the most exciting part for academics – the honour and pleasure to see young, uncertain learners enter the university and leave as adults. To meet former students after many years and to find that even the naughtiest and sometimes laziest undergraduate students made it to the top positions in their respective fields gives any lecturer a kick! Yes, we do get kicks, you know! I mean, we don't do it for the money! These former students make all the money in jobs we have never even dreamt of! But for all in South Africa, a better future awaits. As long as we keep up the focus and the dedication – irrespective of who won the elections!

So, hande vat, alle Kovies, en laat looi die akademies! Kry maar oor die naweek so een bier in elke hand by die braai sodat julle darem nog gebalanseerde mense met gebalanseerde diëte ook bly!

Cheerio tot by die volgende amptelike galeenheid!

Groete

Bultjie!