

# du mela



November 2010

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

## New website promises to be *fresh and vibrant*

A website is the window to an organisation. It is mostly the first place one would look to obtain information about an organisation and it is a tool that can make or break an organisation's image.

Our website is no different. And, to keep up with the changing technology and to enhance the image of our university on the internet, a project to redesign the website was launched earlier this year. The aim of the redesign is to have a website that is more user-friendly, accessible and a site that is in line with the latest technology in web design.

The project was carefully planned and the execution thereof has taken staff from the Division: Strategic Communication and the Department of Information and Communication Technology Services (ICT) several months to complete.

Consisting of 15 177 pages, the information on

the current site had to be revised and some of it was moved to the Staff Intranet. This was followed by the training of web officers on the use of the new design and the migration of information on the current website to the new structure.

Our staff and students can look forward to a website that is fresh and vibrant with a simple, yet attractive and professional design. The new design is search-engine friendly and easy to navigate. It was well researched and will serve as a primary marketing instrument for our university.

The website will be launched on 22 November 2010. This is, however, only the beginning and further development of the website will take place continuously. - **Lacea Loader**



PEOPLE



EVENTS



NEWS



Die Kowsie Xtravaganza is 'n toonvenster van die beste talent van ons universiteitstudente. Vanjaar se gehoor was weer vermaak met die beste hip-hop en panzula-dansers, graffiti-kunstenaars, 'n studentestrykkwartet, jazzorkes, marimba-orkes, verskeie sanggroepe, wenners van die kampus se sêrkompetisie, asook die gehalte soliste waaraan gereelde Xtravaganza-gangers deur die jare gewoon geraak het.





Leonie Bolleurs and Charmaine du Plessis, University of Johannesburg.

In more than one instance the 2010 Kovsie Xtravaganza was the showcase of talent at our university.

The variety of sounds and colours introduced us to a production filled with wonderful vocals, contemporary songs, dance routines and fashion that we will remember for a long time. See our front page for a collage of photographs of the event.

However, this event also made me reflect on the talent at our university, whether it be our academics, our students, or our support staff. We could not pass the opportunity to write about these talented heroes.

Francois Marais, a colleague of ours in the Physical Resources Department, brought back gold from the National Judo Championships. Read more about him on p. 18.

You can also read more about Jeanne Combrink from our South Campus on p. 4. With only the help of Jacob, her assistant, she has the talent

to keep our South Campus in spick and span condition. With her enthusiasm for life she definitely is the right woman for this job.

Dr Glen Taylor is using his talents to patent projects for our university. Read more about his newest invention or rather, patent, on p. 7. Ladies, you dare not miss this read!

To celebrate our support staff's talents, effort and hard work and our strive for excellence in our workplace, our management implemented the Service Excellence project. Read more about this on p. 6.

Other talented heroes we wish to acknowledge are Prof. Jo van As from our Department of Zoology and Entomology, Tsepo Mathiba from Information and Communication Technology Services and Wiaan Viljoen, one of our students who represented our country in the green and gold. Also, do not forget about Lebohang, who is very talented with languages. Apart from studying Sign Language, he can speak/understand up to ten

languages. Quite impressive!

A student of François Henkens from our Department of Music, Bonolo Kgaile, also made us proud when she was awarded two prizes at the prestigious 22nd Sanlam National Music competition.

Last, but not the least, our *Dumela* newsletter received first prize at the recent Marketing, Advancement and Communication in Education (MACE) Excellence Awards ceremony. With the efforts and talents of the team at Strategic Communication, together with our language editor, free-lance writers, photographers and the design company, we are stepping forward to give you as our readers a publication that compares with the best in South Africa.

This is our last edition of *Dumela* for 2010. Wow, what a great year it was! I wish you a great festive season filled with laughter, fun and great times with family and friends.

Regards, Leonie

## details



*Dumela* is compiled by the Division: Strategic Communication at the University of the Free State

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## Memoires van 'n toga

Die hoogtepunt van jou studies is sonder twyfel jou gradeplegtigheid. Dit is dan juis hiervoor wat jy universiteit toe gekom het. Die dag van togas en sertifikate is die beloning vir jou studieloopbaan. Maar, soos ons almal weet, is die togas net beskikbaar om te huur. Na die groot dag word hulle aan die universiteit terugbesorg vir die volgende groep studente.

Dit was dus onverwags toe die universiteit hierdie jaar 'n spesiale pakkie ontvang het. 'n Byna antieke toga, vergesel van 'n briefie, het Nick Venter, Adjunkdirekteur: Akademiese Studentedienste, se kantoor bereik.

Die brief lees:

"Aan wie dit mag aangaan:  
Hierdie toga is ± 40 jaar gelede deur my gehuur en ek word deur die Heilige Gees gedwing om dit terug te stuur, want ek het dit nie betaal nie, wat neerkom op steel.  
Dit was al die jare in my kas en is nooit gebruik nie. Ek hoop u kan dit nog gebruik.  
Baie dankie"

Duidelik wou die anonieme persoon verseker dat volgende generasies ook die voorreg het om hulle gradeplegtigheid te geniet. Vir hom of haar was die gradeplegtigheid 'n geleentheid wat vir jare onthou is, en sal onthou word. - Ula van Zyl

Nick Venter, Adjunk-Direkteur: Akademiese Studentedienste, en die berugte toga.



PHOTO: ULA VAN ZYL

# [Dealing with] welcoming students with disabilities in higher education

By Hetsie Veitch

“I envisage a future filled with opportunities and possibilities for persons with disabilities, but enabling students with disabilities to participate on an equal footing with their peers and taking their rightful place in society is no easy task.”

According to recent research published by our Department of Industrial Psychology, persons with disabilities are accommodated and tolerated in the workplace, but rarely embraced and welcomed. It is our duty as Institutions of Higher Education to ensure that all our students have a sense of belonging at our tertiary institutions.

During the September break, the first Higher Education Disability Services Association (HEDSA) symposium was hosted on our Main Campus and tertiary institutions from across South Africa came together to discuss new beginnings and new directions, setting standards and working together.

The accommodation of persons with disabilities has to be an institutional process and not the work of a few motivated, passionate individuals manning a support programme.

Revising our perceptions and attitudes is the first step in accommodating students who present themselves, learn or perform in ways that are different from others. It is vital to remember that their similarities with other students are much more significant: we are first and foremost dealing with students.

Each student with a disability has very specific needs and because of an inaccessible society has previously been marginalised. The aim is to enable the student to reach his/her full potential and not to provide an unfair advantage to students

with disabilities over non-disabled students.

Any assistance rendered or advice given should be in consultation with all role players concerned. Individualised interventions and accommodations are provided following input from the particular student and other parties involved. The specialised services offered by a support team must be utilised within the framework of all parties involved taking responsibility for their involvement.

The international guidelines from the United Nations Convention on the rights of Persons with Disabilities and our own Constitution promoting Human Rights are available for guidance in the absence of a dedicated South African law protecting the rights of persons with disabilities. Tertiary institutions also need to acknowledge the importance of content regarding disability within different curriculums. The general public needs to be exposed to the issues pertaining persons with disabilities on a much wider and more extensive scale. This will also assist to create a greater awareness and sensitivity amongst non-disabled people.



PHOTO: LIZE-MARIE SMIT

*“If we always think the way that we have always thought; then we’ll always do what we’ve always done; and we’ll always get what we’ve always got.” [Charles Juncker]*

Hetsie Veitch, Unit for Students with Disabilities.

## Chemistry brings dti awards home

The research group of Prof. André Roodt, Head of our Department of Chemistry, won the first prize in the category development of small medium and micro enterprises (SMME) at the annual Department of Trade and Industry’s (dti) award ceremony. Prof. André received the prize for the hi-tech project Development of novel nuclear pharmaceuticals in the Technology and Human Resources for Industry Programme (THRIP).

The dti Deputy Minister Bongzi Maria Ntuli and Director-General Tshediso Matona presented the prize at the gala dinner held at Gallagher Estate, Gauteng.

The dti’s Annual Technology Awards recognise excellence in research and aim to raise awareness on the benefits of using technology to improve the competitiveness of enterprises in the local and global arena. Individuals and organisations are recognised for their efforts in advancing and promoting technology interests and emerging enterprises.

Prof. André, also vice-president of the

European Crystallographic Association, who has just returned from a series of lectures abroad after being elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry in the UK, received funding in excess of R3 million over the past two years to set up a specialised laboratory for synthesising active compounds. The research aims to produce new nuclear medicinal agents for the early diagnosis of cancer, heart and brain

defects, and even HIV/ Aids.

Two doctorate students, Alice Brink and Marietjie Schutte, are actively involved in this project. They are the recipients of prestige scholarships introduced by our Rector and Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Jonathan Jansen, under the UFS Research Initiative (the Advanced Biomolecular Systems Cluster) to complete their Ph.D. studies. - Supplied

At the exhibition booth were, from left: Prof. Andreas Roodt, Prof. Connie Medlen, pharmacologist, Dr Gerdus Kemp from PETLabs Pharmaceuticals, Pretoria, Alice Brink, Marietjie Schutte and Prof. Deon Visser from the Inorganic Chemistry research group at the UFS.





PHOTO: LIZE-MARIE SMIT



# Koppie koffie met...

Dr Khotso Mokhele.

people

## KOVSIES, know your status

**W**hen the South African Minister of Health, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, together with the Department of Health, launched the National HIV Counselling and Testing (HCT) Campaign earlier this year, the aim was to get as many South Africans tested for the disease as possible. Our HIV/Aids Centre saw this as a wonderful opportunity and a decision was made to arrange "special testing days" in collaboration with New Start, South Africa's largest non-profit HIV counselling and testing programme.

In September this year, two testing days were held. Hundred and fifty eight students walked away knowing their status. From April to September this year, a whopping 1 230 staff members and students on our Main Campus were tested.

According to Nada Laurie from the centre, staff and students who test positively for the disease are offered immediate support and referred to clinics in the vicinity where they can have their CD4 count determined. The CD4 count will indicate the progression of the virus and ultimately the treatment plan that is to be followed.

In support of the disease, Kovsies raised awareness for the fight against the disease when we commemorated World Aids Day on 27 October. Staff and students were requested to take part in the campaign, called (RED)OLUTION. They were encouraged to wear red ribbons to demonstrate their care and concern about the disease. Later that day, staff and students gathered at the Thakaneng Bridge to take part in the "free mob". For three minutes, everybody "froze" to symbolise their commitment to putting a stop to the spread of HIV. - Lize du Plessis

From our Kovsies HIV/Aids Centre are, Estelle Heideman, Tarryn Nell, John Makoatsane and Nada Laurie.



## Ontmoet Suid-kampus se

**J**eanné Combrinck sing op pad werk toe. En haar hart klop warm wanneer sy al van ver af die pragtige kampus teen die koppie sien. Daar waar sy omsien na elke gloeilamp wat blaas, en waar stokstertmeerkatte ook welkom voel. Elke graspol is in plek, en jy gaan sukkel om 'n papiertjie te kry wat rondlê.

Wanneer jy op soek is na die Hoof van Tegniese Dienste, roep jy jou 'n hardebaardman in jou geestesoog op: een met skurwe hande en armspiere wat bult. Wanneer 'n vrolike vrouestem jou oor die telefoon groet, dink jy dat sy moontlik Meneer se sekretaresse is ... Maar nie op ons universiteit se Suidkampus nie. Daar sorg Jeanné dat dinge klopdisselboom loop, soos net 'n vrou kan!

Sy het in 1983 by Vista Universiteit by die Mamelodi-kampus in Pretoria diens aanvaar as senior woordprosesseerder. In 1984 is sy oorgeplaas na Bloemfontein omdat haar man geskuif het. "Toe ek in 1996 in 'n tegniese pos aangestel is, het ek nie eintlik geweet wat dit behels nie!" lag Jeanné. "Dis mos eintlik mannewerk! Maar ek het baie gou geleer om



# Dr Khotso Mokhele:

## An ambassador for African science

Our university's new Chancellor, Dr Khotso Mokhele, has been instrumental in the re-entry of South Africa into the international science community as an ambassador for South African and African science.

He represented the country on the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and also, more recently, as Vice-President for Scientific Planning and Review of the International Council for Science (ICSU) 2005-2008.

He was honoured with the Legion of Honour (Chevalier) by the President of the Republic of France in recognition of his personal efforts in strengthening scientific ties between France and South Africa, a National Science and Technology Forum Award.

Dr Khotso's vision and actions have been guided by his deep conviction that a truly democratic society will only emerge in South Africa when all people are empowered to be its architects, advocating unhindered access to education to create a critical mass of experts in the fields upon which our economy is built.

As President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of firstly, the Foundation of Research Development (FRD) 1996-1999 and later, Founder President and CEO of the National Research Foundation (NRF) 1999-2006, this philosophy had a great impact on the strategic direction and success of the national research development.

He cites his role in the transformation of the FRD and his ability to drive adherence to stringent

quality criteria – linked to international benchmarking – to ensure that South African science can compete with the best in the world, as a personal career highlight. His vision has driven the quest to turn myopic, local research questions into research questions of international interest.

Dr Khotso was part of the task team that drafted the Green Paper for Science and Technology and was founder President of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf). He was appointed by the Minister of Science and Technology as a member of the National Advisory Council, on Innovation (NACI), by the Minister of Labour as Chairperson of the National Skills Authority and served as Chairperson of the Economic Advisory Council advising the Premier of the Free State Province. He was appointed a member of the first Council for Higher Education (CHE) and served on the councils of a number of universities, most recently the International Advisory Board of our university (2009-2013).

His strong leadership qualities and stature as a strategic thinker have also been recognised by the private sector and he currently serves as Chairperson of the Board of Impala Platinum Holdings (Implats) and on the boards of major listed companies Adcock Ingram Holdings, African Oxygen Ltd (Afrox), Zimbabwe Platinum Holdings and Tiger Brands Ltd.

He has received numerous awards for outstanding contributions to science, research and innovation that included a Lifetime Achievement Technology Top 100 award for his vision and major contribution in securing the Southern

African Large Telescope, constructed outside Sutherland in the Northern Cape; as well as Honorary Doctorates from the Universities of Stellenbosch, the Witwatersrand, the Free State, the Western Cape, and Fort Hare, and from these former Technikons: the Free State, Pretoria and Port Elizabeth; and Rutgers University in New Jersey, USA.

Dr Khotso was born and bred in Bloemfontein. After matriculating at Moroka High School, Thaba N'chu, in the Free State, he went on to study at the University of Fort Hare in Alice, Eastern Cape, where he graduated with a BSc (Agriculture), winning the Massey-Ferguson award for the best student in that field.

As a recipient of the prestigious Fulbright-Hays Scholarship, he entered the University of California, Davis, USA where he obtained an MSc (Food Science) and a PhD (Microbiology). Subsequently, he was awarded post-doctoral fellowships at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, Maryland – where he worked in the laboratory of Nobel Prize winner Dr Hamilton O Smith – and at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine in Philadelphia, both in the USA. He also completed the Stanford Executive Programme at Stanford University, California, USA.

He returned to South Africa in 1987 and held teaching and research positions at the University of Fort Hare and the University of Cape Town. He has a number of publications to his credit.

- Mangaliso Radebe

## Handy (wo)man!

my 'man' te staan," gesels sy oor die harde manier waarop sy geleer het. Sy moes maar self sien kom klaar; daar was nie eintlik iemand om haar te leer nie.

Maar saam-saam het sy en Jacob Mohokare, haar regterhand wat al meer as 25 jaar diens voltooi het, die terrein in 'n lushof omskep. "Ek weet nie hoekom nie, maar baie mense wat hier aankom, verwag 'n gebreekte venster hier en daar, of verf wat afdop en 'n slordige tuin ... en is dan baie verbaas oor als wat so netjies is!" Op ander kampusse bestaan Tegnieke Dienste/Fisiese Hulpbronne uit 'n paar departemente, maar Jeanné en Jacob kom goed reg, dankie! Sy is somer haar eie sekretaresse ook! "Ek maak gebruik van kontrakteurs om die werk te doen wat Jacob nie self kan doen nie. En ek het al goeie verhoudinge met hulle opgebou. Hulle sal nie kans met my waag nie!"

Wanneer jy so bietjie verder uitvra, maak dit sin dat Jeanné die kampus so doeltreffend in stand hou, want dit klink of sy haar persoonlike lewe net so tjof-tjaf organiseer. Hierdie

agtermekaarvrou wat in Nongoma in Zoeloeland gebore is, is al 28 jaar getroud. Haar man, Willie Combrinck, is by ons Departement Vee-, Wild- en Weidingkunde, terwyl hulle seun en twee dogters al drie doenig in 'n mediese rigting is.

"Ons drie kinders is baie na aan mekaar ... ons is regtig uit ons skoene uit geseën met hulle. Almal van ons sing ook graag en sal somer terwyl ons in die huis rond is, begin sing!" lig sy die sluier tuis. Verder neem die Combrinck's saam foto's, gaan kamp en speel bordspeletjies. "Ek's mal daarvoor, en sal nooit te oud daarvoor word nie!"

Jeanné vertel dat haar kinders baie avontuurlustig is, maar dat sy ver van valskerm spring en rekspronge af wegbly. "Nee wat, ek bly op die grond. Neem foto's en bid!" Elke landing van die kinders was tot dusver gelukkig veilig gewees ... dalk danksy hulle ma?

Jeanné en haar gesin verken graag ons eie pragtige land. "Vandat ek en Willie getroud is, het ons besluit om al ons bonusse te spaar vir vakansiegeld ... dit werk baie goed."

Een van Jeanné se lewensreëls is om tevrede te wees. En sy is. "Ek is oor die algemeen 'n baie tevrede mens. Nou die dag het ek lank gewonder oor wat nou regtig my spesiale gawe is. Jy weet, soos 'n liefde vir klasgee, mooi skilder, en so. Maar my gawe is om te vergewe. Ek doen dit maklik."

Net so maklik soos wat sy haar werk doen, kinders grootmaak en die lewe geniet. Sy is beslis vir die Suidkampus 'n groot aanwinst! Al wonder sy hoekom ons nie liewer oor iemand belangrik skryf nie ... - Cindé Greyling



PHOTO: GERHARD LOUW

Jeanné Combrinck.

## UFS Postgraduate School **a first** for South Africa



Prof. Neil Roos.

**E**stablishing the very first Postgraduate School in South Africa could be a daunting task and a big challenge. However, Prof. Neil Roos, a respected academic and scholar, will be responsible for seeing to it that the Postgraduate School in our Directorate Research Development is successfully realised.

He is not afraid to take on a challenge, and besides his passion for the academe, he also loves to take on the cold waters of the Atlantic Ocean, participating in one of the most challenging swim events in South Africa, between Robben Island and Blouberg Bay. And as if this 7,5 kms were not tough enough, next year he intends to undertake for a student charity, a double crossing, swimming from Blouberg to Robben Island and back. **Leonie Bolleurs** spoke to him to find out more about his vision for the Postgraduate School.

According to Prof. Neil, the establishment of the school, which is part of Rector Jonathan Jansen's Academic Turnaround Strategy, will bring strategic advancement to the South African higher

education arena.

Nationally a number of postgraduate centres are emerging, organised largely on an administrative level. "At this university we will not establish another centre; we will establish the first Postgraduate School. Our focus will not only be on the administrative function, but we will in the first instance concentrate on the academic function. Amongst others, this will differentiate us from other postgraduate centra," said Prof. Neil.

The school, which will cater specifically for the administration, development and advancement of postgraduate students and postgraduate studies at our university, was approved by management this year. In line with trends elsewhere, one of the goals of the school is to build a strong and coherent postgraduate student community with high and consistent standards and expectations of postgraduate teaching, research and administration across the seven faculties.

Another important strategic objective of the Postgraduate School is to improve the research outputs among postgraduate students. The school will also play a vital role in increasing the postgraduate student population by, for

instance, recruiting students from other countries on the continent. This will not only enhance our university's efforts to position itself continentally; it will also increase and enrich our intellectual diversity on campus.

"When the school is established, we must, however, ensure that it does not become a blunt instrument, imposing uniform structures across the whole university. Different faculties and even departments will have different needs with regard to the school. I am consulting with, amongst others, the deans and postgraduate students to get a sense of their diverse needs. We are not trying for a fit somewhere in the middle, but for a structure that will respond boldly and specifically to the needs of specific constituencies and students," Prof. Neil said.

It is envisaged that the school will be launched early next year. It could contribute to position our university among the leading universities on the continent and, in the course of time, in the competitive rankings among world universities.

Prof. Neil, the Director of the Postgraduate Support Office, will join our ranks on a full-time basis as from 1 December 2010.

## news

### Did you know...

Our Department of Afrikaans and Dutch, German and French has launched the new, updated Afrikaans acquisition course, *Gesellig Afrikaans*. This CD-ROM course for foreign-language speakers uses Afrikaans, English and Sesotho as media of instruction.

**G E S E L L I G**



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## Report good service!

**A** university is a place of teaching, learning and research. A supportive environment is crucial for these processes to be effective. A university that wants to be excellent needs excellent support services.

Of course, if support is good, you hardly notice it. Support, or rather the lack of support, gets noticed most of all when something goes wrong. When things work smoothly, as they should, it is often not noticed or celebrated.

Starting in 2010, our university started to focus and build on its services as part of its strive for excellence. At the centre of this process is a strengths-based approach, where the focus is on building on what is already working well. Many new ideas and energy come from appreciating the good things already in place. The results of this process

promise to be more sustainable than a 'quick-fix' effort.

Noticing what goes well, and appreciating the real efforts people make, is just as important as noticing what goes wrong! It enables and encourages us to build on our successes. Giving a compliment is also part of good feedback! Remember how you feel when you do something well and you receive positive feedback? Service gets recognised and boosted by a simple 'Thank you!' message. As part of this service excellence process, we invite you to put on your appreciative glasses. If you want to encourage good service, please report good service.

Send your examples and stories of good service to [excellence@kessels-smit.com](mailto:excellence@kessels-smit.com). You might be surprised at the impact your feedback can make on taking service at our university to greatness! - **Andrea van der Merwe**

*Andrea van der Merwe is from Kessels and Smit, The Learning Company*



**Casper du Plooy, Workshops Superintendent and Peter Louw, Division Head: Carpenters. Casper and Peter attended one of the Service Excellence programmes.**





## Education leads the way in diversity training

Our Faculty of Education proved their seriousness about transformation at our university by becoming the first among our seven faculties to introduce diversity training as a compulsory part of their academic programme for first-year students. This is the initiative of Prof. Dennis Francis, our Dean of the Faculty of Education.

The faculty presented a Diversity and Learning programme, which consists of two phases. In the first phase a workshop based on anti-oppressive education was presented for a group of 493 first-year students as part of the broader transformation agenda of our university.

The training was presented by Shikaya, a non-profit organisation. Ten experienced teachers who have been participating in Shikaya's Facing the Past programme facilitated this workshop. The workshop afforded the students an opportunity to explore issues of identity, choices, human behaviour and integration in schools.

In the second phase of the programme, our students were transported to various schools in the Bloemfontein area that are representative of the broader South African school context.

Reflection was used as a mechanism for our students to get the most out of their experience and to enable them to act on what they have learned. - **Lorene van Wyk**

Our students partaking in the first ever diversity training of this nature as part of their academic programme.

## Taylor-made

When you hear the word "patent", it is difficult not to imagine the gadget man Q in all the James Bond movies. Pens that can kill. Cars that can fly. Something that changes the world after you've plugged it in ... If that were your thoughts exactly, then you and I have a lot to learn!

At the beginning of 2009, our university appointed Dr Glen Taylor as the Director of the Office for Innovation and Business Development. Not that Dr Taylor was a stranger on campus. About a decade ago, he lectured Animal Science at Kopsies! Did the vast flat Free State call him back?

"No!" he laughs. "I never thought I'd ever cross the Orange River again. Not many people would leave George for Bloemfontein, would they? So, no, it wasn't the surrounds. It was the opportunity at Kopsies that made me come back."

Before he returned to the Free State, Dr Taylor was the former Head of our Department of Agricultural Management and Manager of research, technology and innovation activities at the George Campus of the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University. While he was down there, he developed unique bio-diesel processing units for a couple of farmers in the Swellendam area.

However, now he is re-settled in Bloemfontein and the driving force behind many special projects at Kopsies. The purpose of the Office of Research Commercialisation and Business Development is to optimise the commercialisation of innovation and intellectual property at our university.

According to Dr Taylor, the core function of this office is to establish a sustainable third stream of income from intellectual property in order to diversify the funding base of the university. In essence, the office is responsible for the facilitation

of technology transfer, which also means adding value to the intellectual property of Kopsies that is generally not the Q-type of gadgets! It is mostly in the biotechnology field.

Over the past year and a half, they have dealt with about 16 patents generated by many different departments on campus, from the medical faculty through to the humanities. Some of the groundbreaking patents include a possible cancer treatment and there is something in the pipeline from sport science that will be music to all women's ears. Well, maybe for a couple of guys too. Wait for it ...

... A diet pill! One that really works, made from all natural products with no side effects. "We've already done two sets of trials," Dr Taylor explains, "with very positive results." The people on the trials lost an average of 40.6% of the excess fat in five weeks. And the beauty is that you do not have to do any exercise, or follow any diet. What? "That's true," he assures me. "You just carry on as normal!"

This just seems too good to be true! Well, come to think of it, you wouldn't really expect anything less for the brainy bunch at Kopsies. But couldn't they have come up with this a long time ago?

"The people on trial who did no exercise," he carries on, "lost more weight than those who were training." Mmm, so it's not that perfect then? But before I could get too concerned, Dr Taylor explained that people who exercise have less fat to lose than those who don't.

So, ladies, there is still one set of trails to be completed before your weight war may come to an abrupt halt. Wouldn't that be wonderful! All you need to do is take one pill in the mornings, wait an hour, and carry on with your life as normal. Love that!

If you had to choose between Q's killer pen and a miracle diet pill, what would you choose? And from bio-diesel, animal science, to the most magnificent diet pill, Dr Taylor may even one day guide Kopsies come up with that flying car ... - **Cindé Greyling**

PHOTO: LIZE-MARIE SMIT



Dr Glen Taylor.





## Dagsorgsentrum: Personeel **belowe** meer produktiwiteit

*Tydens die laaste Imbizo wat oor Billike Indiensneming op ons Hoofkampus gehou is, is die voorstel vir 'n dagsorgsentrum vir ouers wat by ons universiteit werk, gemaak. Lize du Plessis het 'n paar van ons kollegas gevra wat hulle dink.*



**Koena Tlatsi** | Secretary: Office of the Registrar on our Qwaqwa Campus  
Having a day-care centre on campus would be the best thing to happen to hard-working personnel. All of them would concentrate on achieving their work objectives instead of worrying about picking up their young ones at the end of a hard day. With each working day becoming so stressful lately due to the challenges that the young parents are faced with, this would come in handy, thus contributing towards improving productivity at all times. An employee whose young one is well cared for would certainly become even more productive. This is long overdue!



**Prof. Dap Louw** | Departement Sielkunde  
So 'n soort "Kleuter-akademie" sal 'n drieledige doel dien. Eerstens sal dit 'n uiters waardevolle en gewaardeerde diens aan personeel lewer. Hier is byvoorbeeld baie (enkel-) ouers op kampus wat ver van die huis af werk. Dit sal ook as 'n opleidingsentrum kan dien, nie net vir onderwysstudente nie, maar vir talle ander studente en navorsers. Verder sal dit ook as 'n navorsingseenheid gebruik kan word. Ons sal byvoorbeeld belangrike kruiskulturele en programnavorsing kan doen. Dit kan ons op die voorpunt van sodanige navorsing met voorskoolse kinders plaas. Hierdie konsep is glad nie vreemd nie: uitstaande navorsing word by verskeie vooraanstaande internasionale universiteite gedoen wat so 'n diens lewer.



**Dr Munene Mwaniki** | Senior Lecturer/Researcher: Department of Language Management and Language Practice  
In the emergent society where both women and men are legitimately expected to be caregivers to children, and where both genders are increasingly pursuing productive careers, the idea of having a day-care centre for children at the work place is an idea that has come of age. In effect, having such a centre at our university aligns the operations our university with the best and most sensitive of modern organisations. It also makes a statement about the core values of the UFS – the UFS is an organisation that cares for its people and those that its people care about most – their children.



**Tshogofatso Setilo** | Directorate for Institutional Research and Academic Planning: Student Development and Success  
I think that it is a good idea to have a day-care centre for all the parents working at the university. It will certainly help them a lot as they will be at ease, knowing that their children are on the same premises with them and I personally think that it will in some way be effective in terms of parents going to get their children from day care during lunch time, taking them home and coming back to work in less than an hour.



**Sanet Neethling** | Sentrum vir Omgewingsbestuur  
*A baby costs more than anything else on earth – your love, your life.* (Helen Thomson, 1943)  
'n Werkende ma se hart en aandag is altyd in twee gedeeltes. Die een deel is by haar werk en die ander by haar kind of kinders. 'n Dagsorgsentrum by ons universiteit kan wonderlik werk vir ma's wat by die universiteit werk. Behalwe vir die tyd wat sy spaar om nie haar kind iewers in die stad te hoef aflaai voor sy werk toe kom nie, kan sy die gemoedsrus beleef om te weet haar kind is net 'n paar treë van haar af. Met al die wonderlike kennis en navorsing wat by ons universiteit is, kan dit omskep word in een van die heel beste dagsorgsentrums in die stad, want elke ma wil net die beste vir haar kind hê.

## Wiaan Vijoer dra goud in enkelspel pluimbal

Wiaan Vijoer, een van ons studente, is die Suid-Afrikaanse enkelspelkampioen in pluimbal nadat hy Roelof Dednam, 'n voormalige Kovsie, in die eindstryd by die Suid-Afrikaanse pluimbal-kampioenskap gewen het. Hy is as naaswenner in die dubbelspel aangewys nadat broers Chris en Roelof Dednam, ook van die Vrystaat, koning gekraai het. Vijoer het saam met sy spanmaat, Chris Dednam, tot die semi-finaal van die gemengde spel deurgedring, maar verloor teen hul opponente van die Westelike Provinsie. - **Leonie Bolleurs**

## UVPERSU-teekamer kry eersdaags 'n nuwe gedaante

Die teekamer in die UVPERSU-hoofkwartier aan die oostekant van die Flippie Groenewoud-gebou aan ons universiteit, is onderweg om 'n verandering te ondergaan. Die ruimte is in die proses om omskep te word in 'n nuwe Dekansuite vir ons Fakulteit Geesteswetenskappe. Nadat die bouwerk afgehandel is, sal die vorige teekamer 'n ontvangslokaal, komiteekamer, die Dekaan se kantoor, asook ruimte vir sy sekretaresse, vyf personeelkantore en 'n fotostaatlokaal, wat ook as 'n ruimte vir 'n navorsingsassistent sal dien, bevat. Saam met al hierdie veranderinge gaan die bestaande ingang aan die oostekant van die Flippie Groenewoud-gebou ook opgeknip word, sowel as twee nuwe werksruimtes vir besoekende dosente wat ingerig sal word deur die huidige kombuis te verklein. Die kontrak vir die proses duur vanaf 28 September tot 28 November 2010. - **Christiaan van der Merwe**

## Department of Zoology and Entomology members rake in rewards at conference

Our Department of Zoology and Entomology has ample reason to be proud after the 39th annual conference of the Parasitological Society of Southern Africa (PARSA) that was held at the ATKV Drakensville Holiday Resort in the Drakensberg Mountains. During the conference Prof. Jo van As, who is the head of the department, became the 24th recipient of the prestigious Elsdon Dew Medal for contributions to parasitology in Africa. Adding to the achievement of Prof. Jo's, Andri Grobbelaar also received the award for the best senior student presentation for the presentation entitled "Behavioural influence of eye flukes (Diplostomidae) on fish hosts". - **Christiaan van der Merwe**

## Tshepo competes in Gospel singing competition

Tshepo Mathiba, a staff member at Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Services at our university, recently competed in Radio Pulpit's (Radio Kansel) annual Jubilaté gospel music competition. The competition was held at churchwithoutwalls in Centurion, Gauteng. Thespo was awarded an admirable third place in the solo competition, with Millicent Jansen and Hannelie Augustyn coming first and second, respectively. - **Christiaan van der Merwe**

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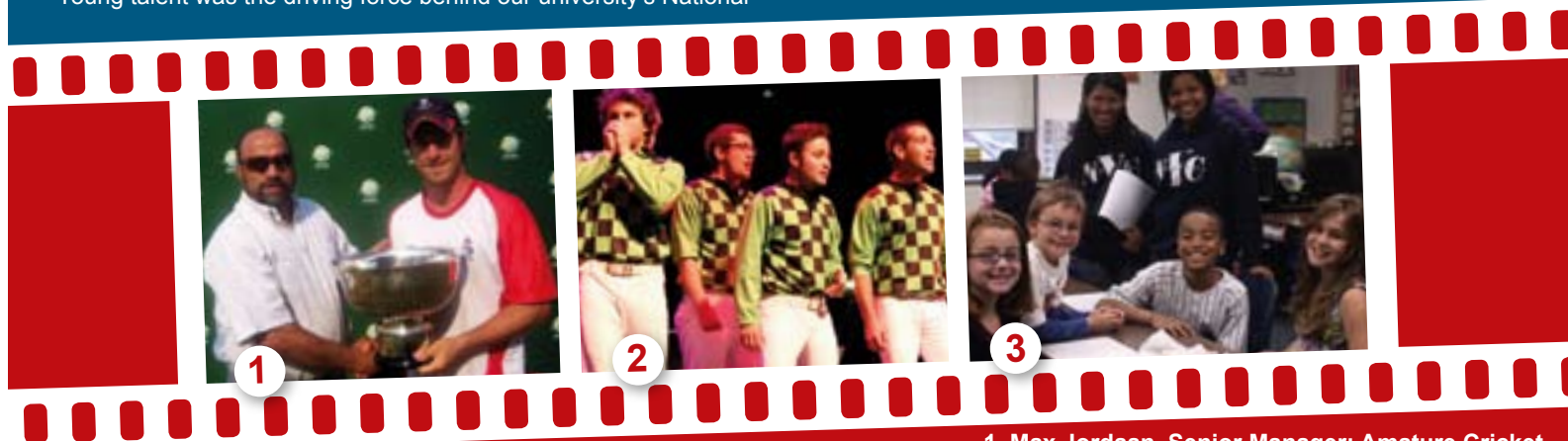
## Spread the word

News about developments and achievements at our university were spread widely across South Africa, and even in the USA.

- News about our university sending the first ever group of 71 first-year students to the United States of America (USA) as part of our Student Leadership Development Programme were used in amongst others: *eNuus*, *e-TV*, *OFM*, *SAfm*, *SABC 2*, *SABC 2 Setswana News*, *Volksblad*, *Rapport* (twice), *Mail & Guardian Online*, *The Cleveland Stater*, *NECN* (Boston), *Washington Square News*.
- News about the appointment of our new Registrar, Dr Derek Swemmer was used in *Mail & Guardian*, *Volksblad* and on *RSG*.
- An article about our Rector and Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Jonathan Jansen, was used in *Marie Claire*.
- Young talent was the driving force behind our university's National

Club Championships triumph in cricket this year. Kovsies were competing in the fifth final of their club championship history and completed a successful week with the five-wicket win over the CSP Crusaders. This news appeared in *The Citizen*, *Son*, *Beeld*, *Volksblad*, *Daily News* and on *Jacaranda FM*.

- An article on the appointment of Prof. Neil Heideman, our new Dean of the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, appeared in *Volksblad*.
- An article on student housing construction at our university to the value of R250 million appeared in *Beeld* and in *Volksblad*.
- Veritas Residence winning the national sêr competition was covered in *Die Burger* and on *OFM*. - **Lacea Loader**



1. Max Jordaan, Senior Manager: Amateur Cricket and Wian van Zyl (captain).  
2. Veritas Sêr group.  
3. Our students in the USA.

## A man of many tongues (and talents)

**L**ebohang Mathibela is a lecturer at our Department of Language Management and Language Practice, lecturing in interpreting, a necessity in multi-lingual South Africa.

Lebohang's love for languages (and his need to escape the Vaal Triangle) is what brought him to our university, against the protestations of his mother. In 1991 he enrolled at Kovsies; starting to climb the academic ladder.

Lebohang loves the UFS, especially the mind shift that has occurred from 1991 to now. He admits that there is still room for improvement, but our university has undergone a tremendous change of attitude. He also loves the Free State and Bloemfontein. According to him it is the perfect mix of platteland and city: away from the madding crowds of Gauteng and Cape Town, with enough nature to keep us grounded.

Lebohang has trained interpreters for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC), Free State Legislature, Parliament, Mpumalanga Legislature, Lesotho Government and many others. And he is not only a trainer of interpreters, but also a practising interpreter. He usually interprets

between English and Sesotho and sometimes Afrikaans. Lebohang can speak Afrikaans, English, isiZulu and Sesotho fluently, Xhosa, Tswana, Sepedi and Siswati moderately and understand Xitsonga and isiNdebele. He has also completed his first year in Sign Language, so he can also Sign. Quite impressive.

In his spare time Lebohang spends time with his family, especially playing with his two boys. They cycle, play cricket, walk and play word games: "Something that we should not forget is that children love playing." He also enjoys cooking: "I wish we had MasterChef in South Africa, I would enter and give it a try. My cooking is good." He enjoys preparing African cuisine, pasta dishes and to braai: "You should try my pap, it is to die for, really!"

Lebohang also loves travelling and will easily get into his car and impulsively drive somewhere like Lesotho or KwaZulu-Natal and back. He's been to Belgium, Italy, Germany and Amsterdam. "I would love to go to Dubai," he said.

In ten years' time he believes he will still be at our university, having completed his PhD, and maybe even be the head of some department. Having come so far academically, he reminisces about his undergraduate years. "I took English, Sesotho and isiZulu, but

had to attend the classes in Afrikaans," he said.

Lebohang's message to all students is: "You are privileged to be at varsity. This is an opportunity of a lifetime; use it to achieve your educational goals. Do it while you are still young and energetic. The time for other things will come. Respect your elders, respect your lecturers and respect yourselves. Once you do that, I think you would be 'cool'."

- **Ula van Zyl**



# Eerstejaars is ware **ambassadeurs** in die VSA

Ons studente het universiteitsbestuur in die VSA beïndruk met die wyse waarop hulle ons land en ons universiteit verteenwoordig het. Die program is 'n ongelooflike investering in ons studentegemeenskap. So sê mnr. Rudi Buys, Dekaan: Studentesake aan ons universiteit.

Rudi het tydens die groep van 71 studente se twee weke in die VSA sewe van die nege instellings besoek en ook die geleentheid gehad om met dekane en visepresidenten van Studentesake by hierdie universiteite te gesels. "Ek het besef dat ons fokus op leierskapontwikkeling en die leiding aan studente deur middel van die aanbod van verskeie programme in lyn is met die programme wat hierdie universiteite aanbied," sê Rudi.

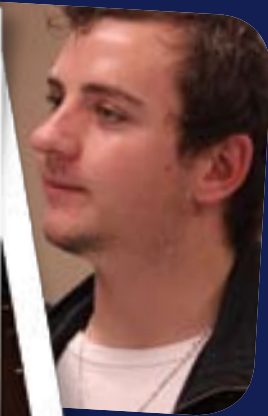
"Die universiteite was geweldig beïndruk met die wyse waarop ons eerstejaarstudente kon debatteer oor verskeie kwessies. Ek het heelwat versoeke ontvang dat die program moet voortgaan en dat van die universiteite ook hul studente na ons universiteit wil stuur," sê Rudi.

Hy is opgewonde oor die resultate wat met die program bereik is. "Ons studente het bereik wat ons met die program wou bereik: Om kwessies van verskillende diversiteit in hul groepe en op 'n persoonlike vlak te ondersoek. Ons studente het gegroei en verander en dit is weens hul toegewydheid teenoor die program," sê hy.

- Lacea Loader











Tiana van der Merwe.

## Lecturers changing their blackboards for **Blackboard**

In June 2009 an executive decision was made to acquire Blackboard 9.0 as the official Learning Management System of our university. The system was first implemented in 2009 as a pilot project involving only 10 projects across five of the faculties on campus prior to going live in January 2010.

By October 2010 our university was running at full capacity with 1 586 modules being accessed by 22 640 students and 638 lecturers.

According to Tiana van der Merwe from the Centre for Higher Education Studies and Development, this

strategic decision to implement Blackboard is aligned with our university's commitment to excellence in teaching and learning and was supported by our Vice-rector: Teaching and Learning. Various resources and tactics were deployed in the implementation of the new LMS.

"Firstly, design teams, consisting of learning designers and developers were appointed to support academic staff in the design and development of learning materials and resources on the new learning platform. The designers' role was not restricted to the design and development of learning materials, but also to act as agents of change within faculties – promoting the effective use of the Blackboard in teaching and learning, while the developers did the behind the scenes work.

"Secondly, training of academic and support staff on the new LMS

is a crucial factor in the successful implementation of any LMS. Our university's workshops did not solely focus on the "how to?" in the use of tools, but emphasis was also placed on teaching and learning, and how tools could support classroom practices and problems.

An initiative was launched to award academics for innovative use of technology in the classroom. During an annual E-learning showcase day, academic staff was given the opportunity to show how they had used Blackboard in their teaching and learning while competing for the E-learning award. This recognition for the innovative use of technology had provided a platform for academics to learn from one another and share best practices, and thus built their own community of practice," she said.

Overcoming plagiarism was recognised as a global issue for academic institutions and our university was no exception. Subsequently, our university developed an official protocol and policy for the lecturers – how to detect plagiarism and what to do when you detect it in an assignment? This has proved to be an excellent selling point to lecturers to get them to embrace Blackboard by using Safe Assign in the detection of plagiarism.

"Although the first university to adopt Blackboard 9.0, the other four largest universities in South Africa are now following suit. The uptake of Blackboard as well as the system's stability have impressed academics and top management so much, that in October 2010 approval was obtained to expand Blackboard functionalities by upgrading to Blackboard 9.1 as well as acquiring both the Blackboard Community and Blackboard Content system, with implementation in 2011," Tiana said.

- Mangaliso Radebe

## Kovsie wen gesogte **Argitektuur-toekenning**

En van ons argitektuurstudente, Van Wyk Oosthuizen, het onlangs by CaesarStone se derde Ontwerptoekeening Kovsies se naam hoog gehou. Hy het, saam met sy dosent, Madelein Markram, die eerste prys in die Student Design Competition gewen. Van Wyk het met sy ontwerp, *An icon to earth*, die beoordelaars stomgeslaan.

CaesarStone het studente aangemoedig om iets te ontwerp wat namens die planeet kan praat. Van Wyk het daarin geslaag om die aarde as't ware sy kliënt te maak.

Sonja Petrus Spamer van Design Space Africa meen Van Wyk se skema bied 'n sterk, duidelike idee in 'n geboude vorm aan.

Van Wyk en Madelein het albei 'n wonderlike reis na Israel gewen. Die prys, ter waarde van R50 000, sluit akkommodasie, sakgeld asook die vliegtuigkaartjies in. - Lize du Plessis



FOTO: STEFANIE JANSEN VAN RENSBURG

Hier is van links, voor: Martie Bitzer, waarnemende Departementele Voorsitter, en Van Wyk Oosthuizen; agter: Henry Pretorius, Madelein Markram, en Carmen Pretorius, almal van ons Departement Argitektuur.



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## Kovsies vereer 4 vir prestasies en bydraes

Oud-Kovsies het weer vanjaar die geleentheid gekry om saam te kuier, nuus uit te ruil en vriendskapsbande te versterk tydens die Kovsie Alumni week. 'n Diverse program is aangebied wat voldoen het aan ieder en elk se voorkeure. Oud en jonk kon die Museumdag by die Anglo-Boere Oorlog Museum bywoon waar Nico en Naomi Moolman 'n inspirerende praatjie gegee het met foto's en sketse oor die oorlog. 'n Pragtige kwilt met beelde van die Anglo-Boere Oorlog was ook vertoon en bespreek.

Die week is op 'n hoogtepunt afgesluit met die Nasionale Kovsie Alumni-dag en Alumni-Toekenningsontbyt. Tydens die geleentheid is die gesogte Kovsie Alumni-toekennings, om ons alumni te vereer vir hulle uitsonderlike prestasies en bydraes, oorhandig. Die Springbokrugbyspeler Heinrich Brüssow is aangewys as die 2009

oud-Kovsie van die Jaar. Me. Jackie Ntshingila, Provinsiale Bestuurder van die Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA), het die Kovsie Alumni Cum Laude-toekenning ontvang, en prof. Teuns Verschoor, waarnemende Senior Viserektor van ons universiteit, en prof. Benito Khotseng het die Hoofbestuurstoekenning ontvang. Prof. Khotseng, voorheen UV-Raadslid en Senior Bestuurder: Strategiese Programme, het 'n groot rol gespeel om gemeenskappe by ons universiteitsgemeenskap nader aan mekaar te bring.

Buiten die Kovsie-week, kon ons alumni ook vanjaar aan die Kovsie Alumni-gholfdag deelneem. Volgens Annanda Calitz van UV-Bemarking het vanjaar se gholfdag op die vooraand van die Intervarsity plaasgevind. Die jaarlikse Inter-cup tussen die Pukke en Kovsies het deel gevorm van die kompetisie en na vier jaar van verloor het Kovsies koning gekraai oor die Pukke.

- **Leonie Bolleurs**



Heinrich Brüssow, prof. Teuns Verschoor, prof. Benito Khotseng en Me. Jackie Ntshingila.

## Projek, veel meer as net 'n eerste plek

'n Baie spesiale projek wat fokus op die belangrikste en mees kwesbare groep in ons samelewing, naamlik kinders, maak op meer as een manier opslae. Hierdie projek is uniek in die sin dat dit op 'n totaal nuwe en vars aanslag staatmaak, naamlik kinders wat hul eie ouderdomsgenote ondersteun en help.

Sarietjie Musgrave van ons Suid-kampus is betrokke by verskeie ICTISE (ICT Innovation in School Education)-projekte in samewerking met die Provinsiale Departement van Onderwys en ons Fakulteit Opvoedkunde. Een van hierdie projekte is die Children who Care-projek.

Die projek fokus op skole in die Bloemfontein-omgewing, waar navorsing gedoen word oor die behoeftes van weerlose kinders wat die skole bywoon. "Dit is 'n projek waar kinders oor kinders navorsing doen," sê Sarietjie.

'n Gemengde en uiteenlopende groep kinders, onder meer leerlinge van dr. Blok Sekondêr, Heatherdale Sekondêr, St. Bernards Hoërskool en Lereko Sekondêr is tans betrokke by die projek. Die betrokke kinders ontvang via Skype opleiding van 'n oud-Kovsie en medewerker van Sarietjie, dr. Hellmuth Weich afkomstig van die Demontfort Universiteit in die Verenigde Koninkryke.

Hierdie inisiatief was in meer as een opsig voordelig vir beide onderwysers, wat ook opleiding ontvang het om die projekte te bestuur, sowel as die groep kinders wat die navorsing gedoen het. Van die hoogtepunte van hierdie projek was dat interaksie oor grense plaasgevind het. "Van

die kinders het vir die heel eerste keer uit die "township"-gebiede gekom om aan hierdie projek deel te neem; kinders het ook vir die eerste keer mekaar se skole besoek om 'n beter bewustheid van die omgewing waarbinne hulle mede-"navorsers" hulself bevind, te kry," vertel Sarietjie.

Omdat baie van die kinders in die skole baie weerloos is, was dit makliker vir hulle om hulle gevoelens met ander kinders te deel in plaas van met volwassenes. Die kinders wat hierdie projek gelei het, was ook dan voortdurend in kontak met maatskaplike werkers oor die spesifieke behoeftes van die kinders wat hulle gesien het. Gevolglik is daar van hierdie geleentheid gebruik gemaak om ondersteuningsisteme in skole te vestig en volgens Sarietjie het die skole meer begin bewus raak van hul eie leerders se omstandighede en het hulle ook daarby betrokke geraak.

Die projek is ingeskryf vir die SA Innovative Teachers Forum waar die groep die eerste plek behaal het. Hierdie prestasie het die groep deelname aan die Africa Innovative Teachers Forum verleen wat in Kenia aangebied is.

Tydens die kompetisie het hulle 'n algehele tweede plek behaal. Later vanjaar sal hulle ook aan die World Wide Innovative Teachers Forum deelneem wat in Kaapstad aangebied word, waar hulle onder die 450 onderwysers van reg oor die wêreld gaan wees wat deelneem.

Aan die einde van die dag, en na al die eerbewyse, is die mees belangrikste aspek van die projek steeds sonder twyfel die kinders self.

"Hierdie projek het aan 'n groep kinders meer gebied as net 'n eerste plek in 'n nasionale kompetisie en 'n diploma van 'n oorsese universiteit. Kinders het begin voel hulle kan 'n verskil maak; dat hulle die stem is van die kinders van Mangaung," sê Sarietjie. - **Leonie Bolleurs and Christiaan van der Merwe**



Kinders van skole in die Bloemfontein-omgewing wat die Innovative Teachers Competition gewen het en deurgedring het na die World Wide Innovative Teachers Forum.



## Young violinist wins prestigious music competition

PHOTO: CHRISTIAAN VAN DER MERWE



**B**onolo Kgaile, a young girl from Bloemfontein, has been awarded two prizes at the prestigious 22nd Sanlam National Music competition. Bonolo is a product of the Mangaung Strings Project and a student of François Henkins at our university's Department of Music. The

Sanlam National Music Competition is an annual event with the aim of recognising and rewarding talented young musicians in South

Africa. The competition is presented by the Tygerberg branch of the South African Society of Music Teachers and awards prizes in a number of different categories spanning a variety of instruments, including piano, strings, woodwind and brass instruments, as well as a category for other minor instruments. Since its inception, the awards have become the benchmark for recognition of musical excellence in South Africa at junior level, widely considered as an acknowledgement of superb musical ability.

In a remarkable achievement, Bonolo won the overall gold medal in the competition this year, as well as the category prize for development candidates. The competition was held over a number of preliminary rounds, which culminated in the final round that was held at the Hugo Lambrechts Music Centre in Parow in the Western Cape.

Bonolo, who currently attends Sentraal High in Bloemfontein in Grade 9,

took up music for the first time in 2005. She immediately embraced the violin as her preferred instrument and showed amazing promise from early on, according to her teacher, François Henkins. As well as her school work and practising to contend with, Bonolo is also a member of the Botshabelo Strings, which is one of the performing groups involved in the Mangaung Strings Programme that perform regularly to great acclaim. Bonolo does not have any doubts as to what her future plans will be; she aims to study music and hopes to use it as an opportunity to see the world.

Bonolo's triumph in the Sanlam National music awards this year is also special recognition for François and the Mangaung Strings Programme in general. The programme that was founded in 1998 by Peter Guy (Free State Musician) is run cooperatively between our Department of Music and the Free State Musician. The programme currently involves approximately 300 students from different schools in and around Bloemfontein. The aim of the programme, according to François, is to reach out to children in previously disadvantaged communities and expose them to music, as well as to identify and train especially talented youngsters like Bonolo. - **Christiaan van der Merwe**

Bonolo Kgaile playing her violin at the Free State Musician.



## Prof. Sakkie neem afskeid na 12 jaar

'n Groot leemte sal gelaat word by ons universiteit wanneer Prof. Sakkie Steyn, die huidige Registrateur, aan die einde van die jaar aftree. Prof. Sakkie neem afskeid na 12 jaar van getroue diens verbonde aan die universiteit.

Prof. Sakkie is 'n man wat diep spore getrap het in tersiêre onderwys in Suid-Afrika, soos ook in sy tyd by ons universiteit duidelik was. Gedurende 'n loopbaan van 35 jaar het hy 'n lys van prestasies en hoogtepunte beleef wat moeilik geëwenaar sal kan word.

Prof. Sakkie gaan egter nie nou permanent met vakansie wees nie, hy gaan steeds in 'n raadgewende hoedanigheid by twee van ons fakulteite betrokke wees, asook by 'n gemeenskapsontwikkelingsprojek in Groblersdal wat hom naby aan die hart lê.

Ons sê ook vaarwel aan proff. Dana Murray (Department Wiskunde en Toegepaste Wiskunde), Fief van der Merwe en Dirk van den Berg (Departement Kunsgeskiedenis) wat ons universiteit verlaat met hul aftrede.

- **Christiaan van der Merwe**



## ICT Services set precedent with implementation of **ImageNow Software**

The smoother and quicker running of administrative processes at our university these days can be attributed by and large to the diligent work of ICT Services over the last three years. The ImageNow software system has been successfully incorporated into existing systems at our university with overwhelmingly positive results. In addition to these positive factors already evident on campus, the speed and innovation of implementation has been locally and internationally acclaimed including praise from the developer of the software itself.

With student numbers continually rising at the university, administrative services had been placed under pressure due to the increased paper load involved in the old systems. This in turn led to massive paper trails and build-up that slowed student services processes as well as decreased administration staff productivity. Recognising these warning signs a team from ICT services started with research in 2006 to select an Enterprise Management System (ECM) product. They decided on ImageNow from Perceptive Software that creates a central, searchable database of electronic documents.

Since implementing the system and integrating it with existing ones, many visible positive changes have become apparent as well as scope for broader applications in the future. A special unit tasked to work with ImageNow. A team is now scanning thousands of documents and organising it within the database. As a result a 35% increase in productivity of all-ready completed work has been established due to the quick access to documents that can be obtained now using the software. Other benefits include

increased security and confidentiality due to different levels of access to documents that can be authorized for different entities depending on the data requested. Importantly the decreased reliance on paper as well as being cost effective is significantly more environmentally friendly. Above all, the minimal training involved in getting to grips with the program and the ease of operation has made it a big hit with staff already using it on a day to day basis.

The wider applications of the ImageNow software are limitless according to Michael van Rooyen and Jan-Hendrik Serfontein from ICT Services, who were both involved in getting the new system off the ground. An example of the positive impact that the quick and easy access to documents can hold, is one that is already up and running in the library where students can access all previous exam papers available for a subject by simply typing in the module name.

All the good work has not gone unnoticed, with both national and international companies knocking on the door of ICT Services for advice on implementing the software, which is a trend followed by most of the major universities in

South Africa. The developers of the software have come to see our university as a model and a benchmark for quick and efficient implementation and integration of the system, to such an extent that licensing fees involved have already been decreased significantly. - **Christiaan van der Merwe.**



1 From ICT Services are: Jan-Hendrik Serfontein, Michael van Rooyen, Miemie Joubert and Prof. Janse Tolmie, Senior Director of ICT Services.



2 The ladies that were responsible for the scanning process.

## Did you know...

When is olive oil really olive oil? Prof. Lodewyk Kock will know. He and his team in the SA Fryer Oil Initiative (SAFOI) in the Department of Microbial Biochemical and Food Biotechnology are not only exposing outlets that overuse oil to the detriment of people's health. They also featured in a *Carte Blanche* programme that exposed top restaurants offering "olive oil" which is a mix of other oils, to their unsuspecting patrons.



## UFS Medical students win **Pfizer award**

A group of third-year Medical students from our university recently presented their research project at the Pfizer/University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) national young health scientist's research symposium in Durban and walked off with one of the awards.

The annual research symposium is held in partnership between Pfizer South Africa and UKZN, and adjudicated by a panel of health scientists in three different categories with the aim of highlighting research being done by young health scientists. Undergraduate and postgraduate students from five universities in South Africa presented their research projects during this year's symposium in clinical, laboratory and community-based research.

Lizeri Combrinck, Marinda Müller, Leoni de Man and PD Theron represented our university. Their research project, *A demographic and clinical profile of multiple myeloma patients upon diagnosis at the Universitas Academic Complex* under

supervision from Prof. Vernon Louw, won the category for best community-based research project.

The aim of the project was to describe the demographic as well as clinical profile of patients with multiple myeloma at first presentation at the Universitas Academic Complex in Bloemfontein during the period 1 January 2004 to 30 September 2009. - **Christiaan van der Merwe.**

The award winners are, from the left: Lizeri Combrinck, Marinda Müller, Leoni de Man and PD Theron.





## Kovsies host first HEDSA symposium

As an institution that prides itself on innovation and equity, it is no wonder that our university was the host of the first ever general meeting for the Higher Education Disability Services Association (HEDSA).

This newly constituted body represents the Disability Units from the various universities across South Africa.

By creating a forum for an open debate, HEDSA hopes to find solutions the problems faced by students with disabilities.

Prof. Niel Viljoen, our Vice-Rector: Operations also spoke on this issue. He spoke of the project our university started to ensure wheel chair accessibility to all buildings. After an extensive survey, our university has decided to spend R2 million a year for five years to achieve this goal. The project will be completed by 2014.

Hetsie Veitch, Chief Officer of our Unit for Students with Disabilities (USD), coordinated the event with HEDSA: "I am really excited that the first ever HEDSA symposium was held at our university. It also places our university at the forefront of matters regarding disabilities."

- Ula van Zyl



PHOTO: ULA VAN ZYL

The group from our university that was present at the HEDSA symposium.

people  
p

## Beste wense en Feesgroete

Hoop u sal 'n bietjie welverdiende rus geniet gedurende die feesseisoen. Mag dit vir u en u geliefdes baie vreugde inhou.

Dankie vir die ondersteuning in die jaar wat verby is. Geniet die feestyd en mag 2011 net mooi dinge inhou!



**Ben Opperman**

Senior Onafhanklike Finansiële Beplanner  
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GELISENSEEERDE VERSKAFFER VAN FINANSIËLE DIENSTE

Ons dink vooruit

## 38 jaar se departementshoofde byeen

Ons Departement Ekonomie het by 'n spesiale geleentheid sy departementshoofde van die afgelope 38 jaar bymekaar gehad. Hier is van links prof. Jan Lange (Departement Ekonomie en Geld- en Bankwese, 1972- 1975), prof. Johan Lourens (Departement Ekonomie en Geld- en Bankwese, 1975-1980 en Departement Ekonomie, 1981-1993, asook 1997-1998), prof. Buks Wessels (Departement Geld- en Bankwese, 1981-1998 en Departement Ekonomie, 1999-2001), prof. Frederick Fourie (Departement Ekonomie, 1994-1996) en prof. Philippe Burger (huidige Hoof van ons Departement Ekonomie sedert 2002).

- Leatitia Pienaar





## Lente-gradeplegtighede kenmerk talle mylpale

**V**anjaar was lentetyd ekstra spesiaal vir almal in en om ons Callie Human-sentrum toe 566 grade, 41 doktorsgrade en 274 diplomas tydens ons September-gradeplegtigheidseremonies toegeken is. Die seremonies het ook drie verdere belangrike geleenthede ingesluit – die eerste amptelike grade wat deur ons nuwe Kanselier, dr. Khotso Mokhele toegeken is, en twee ontvangers van eredoktorsgrade.

Die eerste van die eredoktorsgrade is aan prof. Kalie Strydom (foto 2), 'n gerekende navorser op die gebied van hoër onderwys in Suid-Afrika, toegeken. Gedurende 'n indrukwekkende akademiese loopbaan wat oor meer as 30 jaar strek, het prof. Kalie 'n reuse bydrae tot transformasie in die onderwyssektor, sowel as in kapasiteitsbou van personeel gelewer en billikheidsverwagtinge ondersteun, sonder om op gehalte in te te boet. Die tweede van die eredoktorsgrade is aan dr. Monty Jones van Sierra Leone toegeken. Dr. Jones (foto 3) is 'n internasionaal erkende navorser op die terrein van landbou vir ontwikkelingsinstellings.

'n Baie spesiale doktorsgrade is tydens een van die seremonies aan Anna de Jager toegeken. Dr. De Jager het op die ouderdom van 93 haar doktorsgrade in Godsdiensstudie

behaal, wat van haar die oudste persoon onder al die graduandi maak om 'n grade te behaal, en wat as ware inspirasie vir studente en personeel van alle ouderdomme dien.

Die seremonies het ook belangrike gebeurtenisse vir personeel aan ons universiteit gekenteken. Onder die graduandi was dr. Philemon Akach wat die eerste ooit doktorsgrade in Suid-Afrika in Gebaretaal behaal het, asook twee baie trotse moeders in die gehoor, prof. Jeanette Conradie, Departement Chemie (foto 1) en Rebecca Mohatlane (Akademiese Studentedienste), wie se dogters albei hulle grade behaal het.

- Christiaan van der Merwe



FOTO'S: GERHARD LOUW & LEONIE BOLLEURS



Die September gradeplegtigheid was vanjaar weereens 'n hoogtepunt met dr. Khotso Mokhele wat vir die eerste keer as ons Kanselier amptelik grade toegeken het.

## Qwaqwa Campus celebrates heritage day in style



**H**eritage is an inheritance from our forebears and we owe it to our children to hand it over to them in its intact form."

These were the words of Rev. Hosiah Nkoana, Deputy Director: Housing and Residence Affairs. He was explaining the meaning of Heritage Day at a colourful Heritage Day celebration that was hosted by our Wellness Forum on the Qwaqwa Campus.

"Xenophobia would not be happening if we all understood where we came from. We are all part of the so-called 'foreigners' and we should not be mistreating them. We should not be calling them all sorts of derogatory names. We have no right to do that. They are like our trees, rivers, mountains, rocks and hills that have shaped us who we are," concluded Rev. Nkoana. -Thabo Kessah

Diphakoe tsa Ha - Sethunya rendering traditional Sesotho music at our Qwaqwa Campus Heritage Day celebrations.





Francois Marais.

## Francois gooi sy pad oop na goud

**D**ie meeste van ons vereenselwig die getal 16 met 'n opwindende tydperk in ons tienerjare. Vir Francois Marais, 'n kollega van ons by Fisiese Hulpbronne, is 16 die aantal jare wat hy aan die sport Judo deelneem. En in hierdie tydperk was hy nie minder as ses keer die Suid-Afrikaanse Meester Judo-kampioen nie. Francois was ook deel van die eerste Suid-Vrystaat-span wat die Suid-Afrikaanse spankompetisie (B-afdeling) gewen het. Verder is Francois ook aangewys as die beste Meester Judoka van Suid-Vrystaat-judo.

Onlangs het Francois weer bewys dat hy nog lank nie gaan lê het nie toe hy met goud weggestap het by die Senior Kurash Suid-Afrikaanse kampioenskappe in die o-90-kg-afdeling.

Hy word ingesluit in die Nasionale Kurash-span wat aan die Afrika Kampioenskappe in Maputo, Mosambiek deelneem. Hier behaal hy eerste plek in die individuele afdeling asook in die spanafdeling, toe die span eerste plek verower.

Buiten Judo bly Francois fiks deur te draf en ook te stoei. Hy het tot 2007 al sewe keer aan die Comrades deelgeneem (en voltooi). Francois doen ook al vir 29 jaar amateurstoei. Hy rig ook deelyds kinders in judo af by die UV-Judo-klub.

- Leonie Bolleurs

## ChristoSaayman FINPLANNERS



**Christo Saayman (CFP®)**  
B.A. Hons, B.D  
Nagraadse Diploma in  
Finansiële Beplanning



**Annemarie Trinder-Smith (CFP®)**  
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## Qwaqwa hosts Chinese post-doctoral research fellow

**D**r We Hei is a man on a mission. That is to create harmonious working and professional relations between our Qwaqwa Campus and his home university, Shenyang University of Chemical Technology, which is one of the leading universities in the People's Republic of China.

"It is an honour to be on this campus. My research is mainly focused on the synthesis of ring-opening anionic polymerisation. This is one area of polymer science that the Department of Chemistry here is doing a lot of research on.

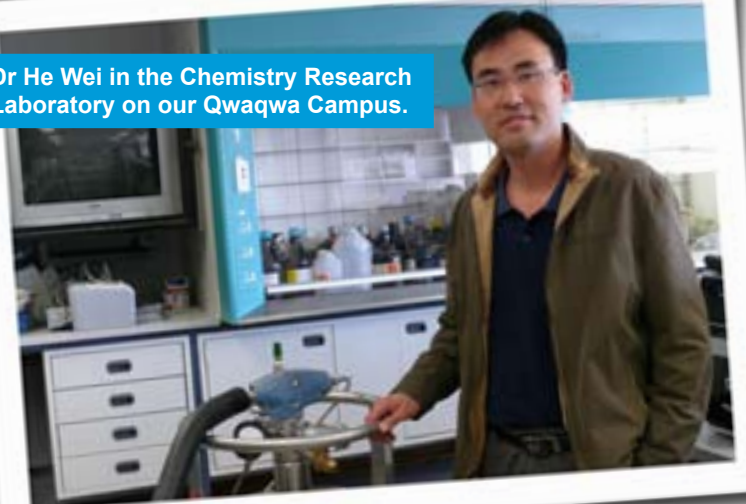
"What I hope to leave behind is an exchange programme for both students and lecturers," said Dr We Hei, who has over 40 research projects, publications and presentations behind his name.

"I am also learning quite a lot from my colleagues here. South Africans are generous, as they are always willing to help and I view this as an opportunity for my professional growth as well. The most important thing is that I am going to gain a lot of experience from operating these advanced research equipment, as not everybody is allowed to operate them in China," concluded Dr We Hei.

Dr We Hei is utilising the recently-renovated Chemistry Research Laboratory and he will be on our Qwaqwa Campus until July 2011.

- Thabo Kessah

Dr He Wei in the Chemistry Research Laboratory on our Qwaqwa Campus.







## Kovsies impress in English division of Moot Court Competition

'n Kwaai, ingewikkelde stel feite rondom die fiktiewe Turkington-familie het die agtergrond gevorm vir vanjaar se argumente deur ons Fakulteit Regsgeleerdheid en agt ander universiteite se regstudente wat dit moes uitspook in die Vrystaatse Hoë Hof in die voorlopige rondtes, en later in die Hoogste Hof van Appèl in die finale rondtes.

Members of the judiciary, the Free State Bar and Side Bar, and members of our Faculty of Law acting as judges were impressed with the quality of research and advocacy exhibited by the first-year students. Issues such as the best interests of children, the status and consequences of in-vitro fertilisation, adoption and the applicable law regulating a marriage concluded in an aeroplane on its way to 'Neverland', were keenly argued by the sixteen English and eight Afrikaans teams that participated.

The competition has steadily grown since its inception in 2004 and is unique internationally in that it is designed for first-

year law students. Unique in South Africa, it is also the only competition that allows students to argue in Afrikaans as well. This year saw the first announcement of the overall best team where the winners in the Afrikaans and English divisions argued against one another. Top honours this year went to the American team from the School of Law, Charlotte, North Carolina, who was voted the best overall team.

In the English division of the competition, our Kovsie first-years won the prize for best heads of argument. One of the judges in the competition noted, "If only practitioners handed in heads of argument of this quality, it would make our task so much easier."

By 'n swart hoed en das-geleentheid, het prof. Teuns Verschoor, Viserektor: Navorsing en Kommersialisering, die studente oor leierskap toegesprek en het prof. Johan Henning, Dekaan van ons Fakulteit Regsgeleerdheid, die pryse oorhandig.

The authoring of the case to be argued form the heart of the competition and seeks to address topical issues in relation to Family-

and the Law of Persons, said Prof. Neels Swanepoel, Chair of our Department of Law of Procedure and Evidence.

This year this set of facts (authored by Michelle Karels and fourth-year law student, Tharina Els) was prescribed to students of the University of Johannesburg in their legal skills course. At our own faculty, all Legal Practice I students had to research and argue the case, from which our university teams were chosen. There exists no doubt with law practitioners and academics that this competition, annually presented by the Department of Procedural Law and Evidence, and which has grown substantially since its inception in 2004, is not only unique internationally, but presents a formidable experience to our law students.

The completion is financially supported by the South African Attorneys' Fidelity Fund.

Participants, coaches, and student court orderlies in the 2010 Kovsie First-Year Moot Court Competition, in front of the Free State High Court. - **Prof. Neels Swanepoel**

## Eljee wen orrelstudiebeurskompetisie

Dié was soos musiek vir sy ore toe Eljee du Plooy, een van ons derdejaar B.Mus.-studente aan ons Departement Musiek, gehoor het hy is die wenner van 'n ruim orrelstudiebeurs.

Nadat die Suid-Afrikaanse Kerkorreliste Vereniging (SAKOV) 'n aansienlike skenking van 'n anonieme donateur ontvang het met die opdrag dat dit aangewend moet word om kerkmusiek en orrelspel in Suid-Afrika te bevorder, het hulle besluit om beurse vir navorsing en praktiese orrelstudie daarmee beskikbaar te stel.

'n Praktiese orrelstudiebeurskompetisie is van stapel gestuur en die eerste rondte van landswye oudisies deur twee kontinuïteitsbeoordelaars is reeds in Julie vanjaar afgehandel. Kandidate het meegeding in die kategorieë: skoliere, orrelstudie vir niegraaddoeleindes, voorgraadse studie, M.Mus. en Ph.D.

Finaliste is in elke kategorie aangewys en hulle het aan die finale rondtes by die NG-Kerk Somerstrand in Port Elizabeth deelgeneem.

Eljee het die beurs in die voorgraadse studiekategorie gewen.

Benewens hierdie prestasie het Eljee in die verlede ook al sy staal gewys deur in Oktober 2009 in die finale rondte en op die galakonsert van die UNISA Suid-Afrikaanse Musiekbeurskompetisie deel te neem. Vroeër vanjaar het hy ook 'n SAFO-prys (Suid-Afrikaanse Fonds vir Orrelstudie) tydens die St Michael's Music Festival ontvang.

Eljee is 'n student van mnr. Jan Beukes, orreldosent aan ons universiteit. - **Susan Vermeulen**





### Sparkie's wishlist for 2011

- Tartan tracks
- Accommodation for postgrads
- Day-care centre
- A gym
- A movie theatre

## Oud-Kovsie sing vir Suid-Afrika

Met 'n kitaar onder sy arm, sy sprankelende glimlag op sy gesig en sy uithouvermoë gereed, het hierdie oud-Kovsie die beoordelaars van die gewilde Idols-kompetisie heeltemal oorrampel.

Die 25-jarige Pieter Westhuis Botes, of Pieter West soos sy Idols-aanhangers hom leer ken het, het in Koffiefontein grootgeword, waar hy die hoofseun van Hoërskool Koffiefontein was. Daarna het hy na Kovsies gekom om as 'n rekenmeester te kwalifiseer.

Ná afloop van sy studie het Pieter as rekenmeester by 'n vleismaatskappy in Thaba 'Nchu begin werk. So tussen die somme deur het hy nooit sy droom om 'n sanger te word, laat vaar nie. Pieter het tot 'n paar jaar gelede net by braaivleisvure gesing, maar toe hy vier ja's by die Idols-beoordelaars in Bloemfontein gekry het,

het sy gehoor vinnig gegroei; só vinnig dat hierdie voormalige Kovsie gou daaraan moes gewoond raak om duisende jillende aanhangers op 'n keer te vermaak. Pieter het Suid-Afrikaners só beïndruk dat hy sommer maklik vir hom 'n plek in die top tien losgesing het.

Maar waarom die naamsverandering? "Op hierdie manier kan Afrikaanse én Engelse kykers aanklank vind by my," verduidelik hy.

Alhoewel hy nou 'n bekende sanger is, bly Pieter 'n ware Kovsie. Hy is maar verleë oor sy roem en sê Bloemfontein sal altyd na aan sy hart bly. Sy vriende is dit eens: hy is steeds die gawe Pieter wat almal by braaivleisvure vermaak het. Talentvol, beskeie en hardwerkend. 'n Kovsie om op trots te wees!

- Lize du Plessis

Address block

FOTO: JANA BOSHOFF



Pieter West.

## Bultjie History according to Hempies (1972)

Ek kry vandag die DIRAP/DINAP-nuusblad en Bultjie is weereens beïndruk met die planne en pogings wat aangewend word om die akademiese profiel van ons universiteit te verhoog. Smeer aan en kom! Een van die grootste probleme met studente kom al van toentertyd toe Engels net in die Engelse klasse gepraat is. Die probleem? Om jouself in 'n ander taal as jou moedertaal in werkstukke uit te druk! Hier doen ERAS puik werk, mense! Wie van julle het ook so gesukkel soos ou Hempies wat in my jare Geskiedenis geswot het! Hy probeer toe mos sy Engels opskerp en bied toe 'n openbare 'lesing' oor die geskiedenis vir eerstejaars in die Gezellie aan. As die geheue hou, was dit iets soos volg!

"Eerstejaars! First years! Attention! Here follows the history of the history of the world. You all know the Bible, so I'll skip that part. Then the Egyptians came who didn't have zinkplaats, so they built houses without roofs. That's why their walls don't go up, but meet at the top with a final stone. That is why they walked sideways!" His demonstration was something to see!

"The Greeks spoke Greek and liked to make serious oats." Bultjie suspect Hempies meant oaths as he went on to

explain why doctors up to today must say that formal prayer before they can become medical practitioners. "The oats is very strong and serious as they take the oats so that their patients wouldn't die. During the Middle Ages, everyone was middle aged. Middle Evil society was made up of monks, lords, and *surfs*. After a revival of commerce, merchants appeared. They roamed from town to town exposing themselves and organising big *fairies* in the countryside. The Crusades were expeditions by Christians who were seeking to free the Holy Land (the "Home Town" of Christ) from the Muslims.

Then disaster struck! Europe caught the Black Death. It was spread from port to port by infected rats. People sang *Ring-a-ring-of-rosies* and dropped dead after that. The song is not popular any more. English was the national language of England, France, and Italy. The Greeks still spoke Greek. Then, out of the blue, came the Renaissance and everybody became very clever and started painting the roofs of new and incredible churches. Renaissance merchants were beautiful and almost lifelike! The Reformation came because the German nobles thought that the Catholic Pope became richer than them. The Popes were usually Catholic. An angry Martin

Luther nailed 95 bureaucrats to a church door. The holes the nails made in the door are there for everybody to see. The paper is gone.

After the Reformation there were wars both foreign and *infernal*. If the Spanish could gain the Netherlands they would have a stronghold throughout northern Europe that would include Italy, Burgundy, Central Europe and India, thus surrounding France. The German Emperor's lower passage was blocked by the French for years and years. In France, Louis XIV became King of the Sun. He gave people music and artillery. If he didn't like someone, he sent them to the gallows to row for the rest of their lives. Vauban was the royal minister of flirtation. Louis XIV had a wife. She gave them cake and they cut off her head for that! The French Revolution was accomplished before it happened. Napoleon was ill with bladder problems and was very tense and he always held a dagger with one hand under his *onderbaadjie*.

In Russia, the 17th century was known as the time of the bounding of the serfs. Russian nobles wore clothes to humour Peter the Great. Peter filled his government with accidental people; Orthodox priests became government antennae. Later they

took over the government with the *surfs* and became *communities*. That is what is called, the *Rooi Gevaar*!

Then history started in 1815 in England. The middle class was tired and needed a rest, so they built machines to do their work. World War I broke out about 1912-1914. At war people get killed, and then they aren't friends any more. Peace was made and everybody spoke English, French and Italian again. In 1917, Lenin revolted Russia. Germany was displaced after WW1. This gave rise to Hitler, who remilitarised the Rhineland over a *squirmish* between Germany and France. WWII broke out. The Italian chief rested his foundations on 8 million bayonets and invaded *Hi Lee Salasy*. Germany invaded Poland, France invaded Belgium, and Russia invaded everybody. War screeched to an end when a nuclear explosion was dropped on Hiroshima. The plane got away. A whole generation had been wiped out, and their forlorn families were left to pick up the pieces."

By this time one first year started snoring and Hempies gave up." This is the end of *two days* lecture!" The more things change, the more they stay the same!

Sterkte van werkstuk tot werkstuk, kollegas!