

Jonathan D Jansen Rector *Opening Ceremony* 8 February 2013

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### Introduction

In memoriam:

Prof. Ray Smego, Head: School of Medicine, Bloemfontein Campus



Dr George Samiselo, Lecturer, Department of English, Qwaqwa Campus





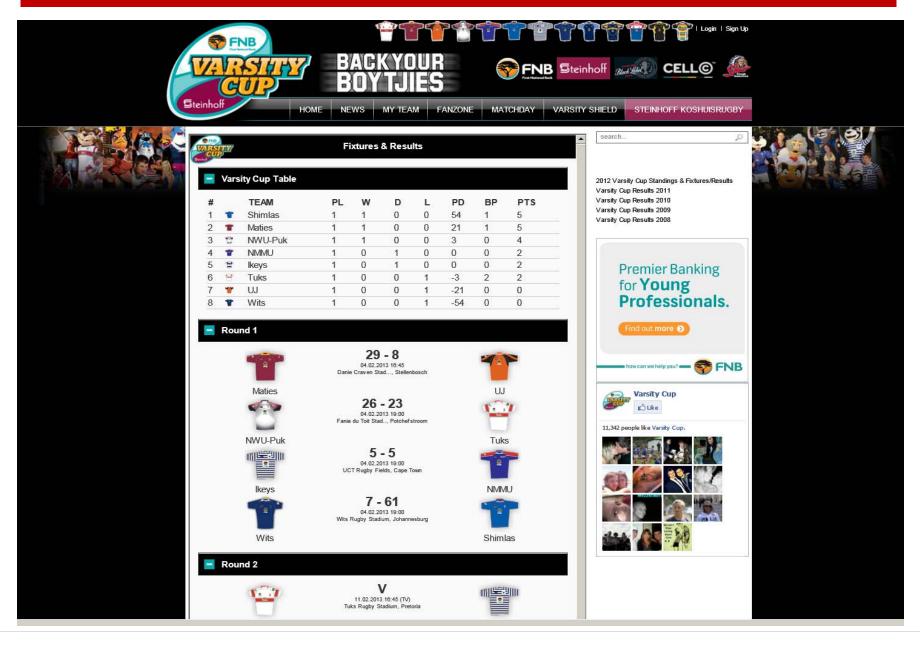
#### The Enemy of Great

"Good is the enemy of great. And that is one of the key reasons why we have so little that becomes great. We don't have great schools, principally because we have good schools. We don't have great government, principally because we have good government. Few people attain great lives, in large part because it is just so easy to settle for a good life. The vast majority of companies never become great, precisely because the vast majority become quite good — and that is their main problem."

- Jim Collins, Good to Great



#### What does it mean to be great?



#### We have come a long way with transformation



Agtersie ry: Mnre. J. C. Smith, C. I. du Plessis en N. M. Meyer. Middelste ry: Mnr. G. J. Bergh, meye. C. du Plessis, A. G. Visser en mnr. W. Serfontein. Voorste ry: Mnre. D. Naudé, A. G. Visser, J. Pozyn, H. J. Klopper (Hoofvoorsitter) en J. P. Boshoff (Hoofklerk).

Let Wel. Die twee dames dien alleen as versiering en behoort nie aan die personeel nie.

1. A firm indication of broad support from external stakeholders and local communities for the direction and leadership offered by the university





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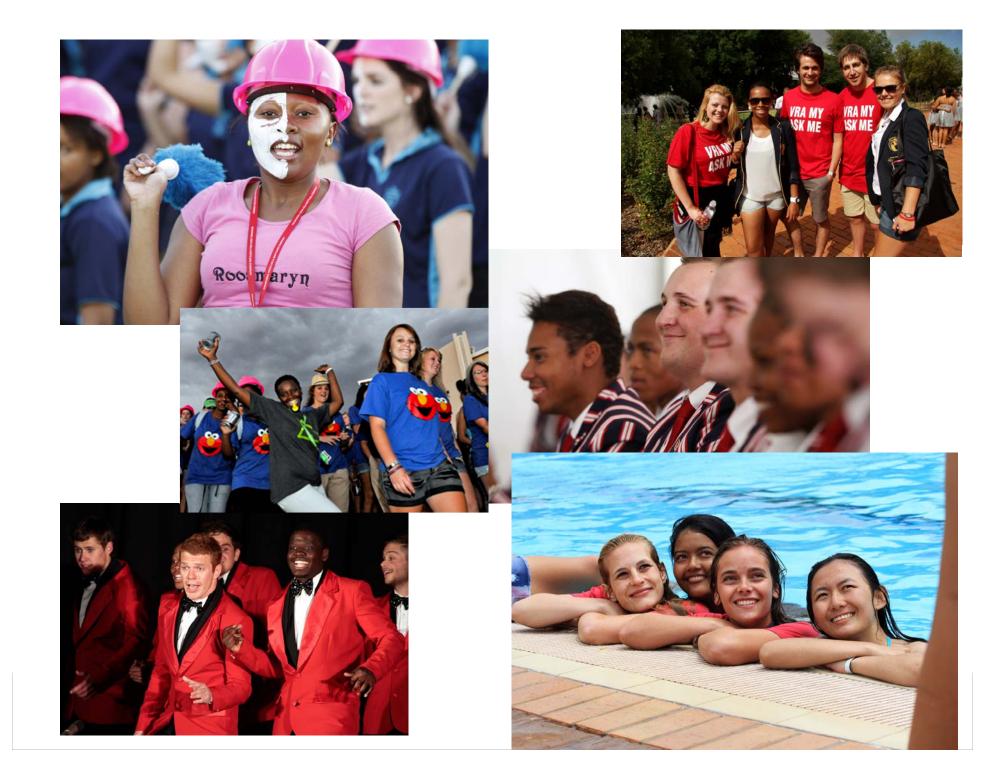
"...I was charmed by the sense of journey the campus has made, by the inspiring students I met, and the openness and global character of the campus. It has become a jewel." - *Editorial by Ferial Haffajee, Editor of City Press* 

I had breakfast this morning with Archbishop Tutu and he shared with me how much the honorary doctorate from the University of the Free State means to him. - *Dr Deon Snyman, Restitution Foundation* 



2. A stable undergraduate student culture with growing evidence of improved academic credentials in the incoming class and more inclusive student communities





This Kovsie mom wants to sincerely thank the UFS for an amazing first year my daughter, Marne, experienced. She was given the opportunity to not only study at the best university, but also to find fulfillment in her passion for diversity. I am looking forward to see her grow more as a second-year. I know that my child is part of the best university. May Kovsies go from strength to strength! - *Alida du Plessis* 

I applied at the UFS for a Medical degree because the university seems to me to be not only a school, but rather a home where you can gain knowledge as well as values. -Danielle Cloete, Girls' High School Bloemhof

I have learnt that being in a very diverse environment, a person has to assimilate and expect accommodation from the dominating cultures. As a prospective teacher, I carry with me a lot of values learned here, which will be applied to my teaching. – *Chrissie Mbewe* 



3. A small but growing group of potentially world-class young academics who rise to the challenge of higher standards for scholarship









The university that head hunts the best! - Moipone A Kobuoe

As alumnus of the university, I believe that positive and significant changes to the development of a tertiary institution like UFS would not have been possible without a hardworking, conscientious and dedicated people.

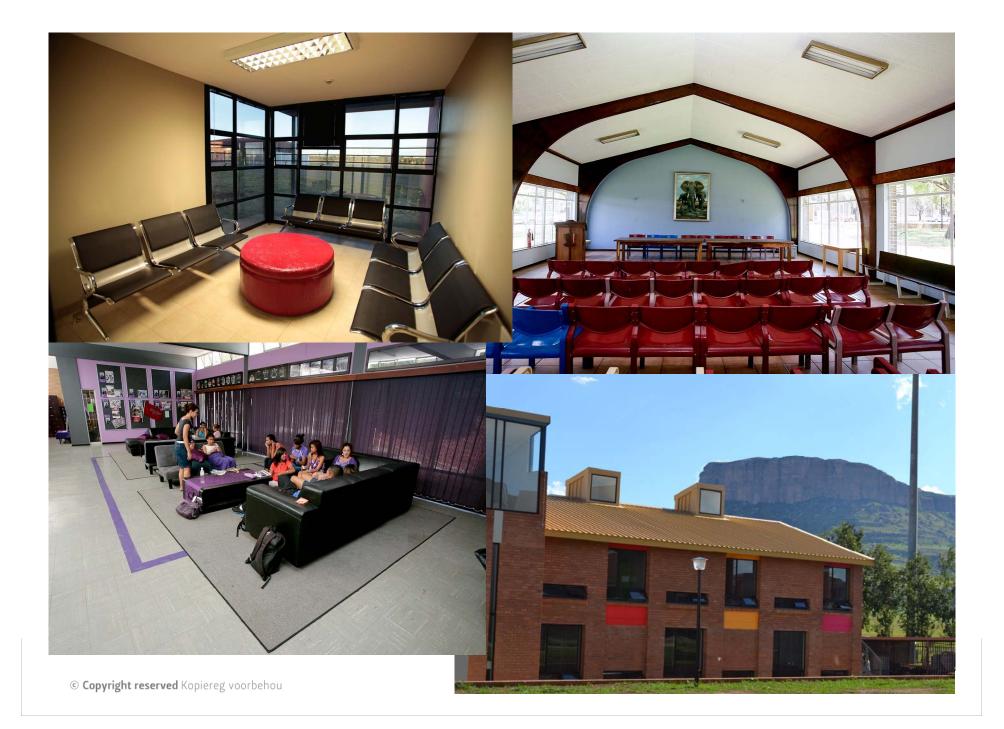
– Oyeyinka Omoshoro-Jones

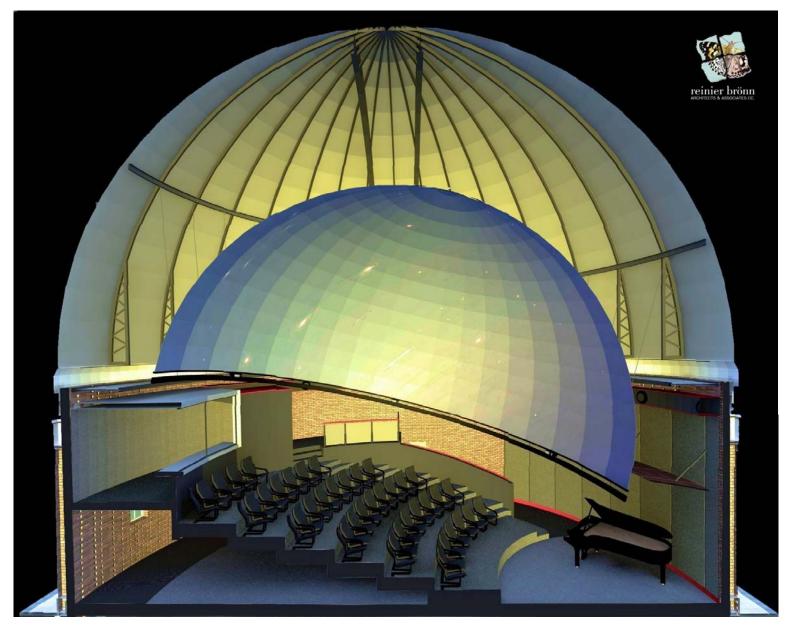


# 4. A physically attractive campus with impressive expansions in buildings and infrastructure











The Head of Protection Services at the university took me on a tour through the security system and I am very impressed with what the university does to ensure the safety of students. - *Ben van Niekerk* 

I was walking back from the UFS Sasol Library the other night and I suddenly realised how safe I felt. I just want to thank you for making our Bloemfontein Campus a safe and secure one. For the homely atmosphere, for the secure environment where we as females do not get harassed, and for the security and panic buttons that give us added reassurance. I appreciate all the work you have done to make Kovsies a home. God bless you. - *Jacqui Middleton* 



5. A sustained marketing drive that has delivered more and more top students from non-traditional school sectors in and outside South Africa







MARJOMALÉ

KERNEKAMP,

Hoërskool Hartswater, se ouers

mnr. Johann en mev. Karina



PAUL BESTER, Hoërskool Jim Fouché, Bloemfontein, se ouers is mnr. Dirk en mev. Sarie Bester.



KHANYISA PINDA,

Hoërskool Aliwal-Noord, se

ouers is mnr. Nkareng Petros

en mev. Ntombekhaya Pinda.



CARMEN SEESINK,

Hoërskool Menlopark, se ouers

is mnr. Arthur en mev. Lizel

Seesink van Pretoria.



Landbouskool Marlow, Cradock, se ouers is mnr. Sias en mev. Lené Hoffman van Zastron



TASMIA JANSEN, Hoër Meisieskool Oranje, Bloemfontein, se ouers is mnr. Joubert en mev. Fatima Jansen





Hoërskool Piet Retief, se ouers is dr. Hancke en mey. René van Blerk.



ANÉ VAN DEN BERG, Hoërskool Fichardtpark, Bloemfontein, se ouers is kol. Kobus en mev. Mariaan van den Berg.



LIENKIE VAN DEN HEEVER, Hoër Meisieskool Oranje, Bloemfontein, se ouers is mnr. Jannie en mev. Ezelle van den Heever.



VAN DER MERWE Hoërskool Witteberg, Bethlehem, se ouers is mnr. Johan en mev. Alda van der Merwe.



Hoërskool Empangeni, se ouers is mey. Neelet en wyle dr. WL. Wessels.

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FREE STATE UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE VRYSTAAT YUNIVESITHI YA FREISTATA

SINJUN SINGH,

Ladysmith Sekondêre Skool,

se ouers is

mnr. Reumus Marhelle en

mev. Savithree Singh.

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A couple of weeks ago we visited the UFS in Bloemfontein. From start to finish we were treated with true Kovsie friendliness and kindness. Not only did we receive information, we were also overwhelmed by kindness, and left the next day with warm hearts and pleasant memories. – *Jimmy and Sandra Bassingthwaighte, Okahandja, Namibia* 

If you continue with this innovative thinking then the UFS will soon become the Ivy League institution of South Africa. - *Chris Abels, United Kingdom* 



# 6. A core group of senior academics who are more and more competitive in global research and scholarship





There will be much more hurt before our country is healed, but it will be the KOVSIE doctors, psychiatrists and teachers applying the plasters and it will be the KOVSIE architects, quantity surveyors, jurists and farmers building and regulating a new country. - *Marzanne Lombard, proud former member of Soetdoring and Welwitschia residences* 



7. A solid base of staff members in the support services who are becoming more skilled, efficient and dedicated in providing the platform for making a great university









I sell this place with such pride to anyone in this world. From today onwards, I Evodia Rethabile Motsokobi will never stand back for anyone; simply because I'm a Kovsie. - *Evodia Motsokobi, UFS staff member* 

Congratulations for the excellent service we received from you during my son, Ruan van Buuren's registration for the final courses of his degree, which he is going to do through E-learning this year. You handled the registration process in an outstanding manner. Please accept our sincere thanks for this.

- Dr RB van Buuren, Johannesburg



#### **Seven priorities for 2013**

- 1. The growth in numbers and quality of postgraduate students
- 2. The planned westward expansion of the main campus (New Master Plan)
- 3. The drive for quality and productivity in research
- 4. The development of an advancement culture throughout the university
- 5. The acceleration of diversity and equity in all aspects of campus life, and especially in academic appointments
- 6. The building of a positive and supporting staffing culture at the university
- 7. The continued investment in undergraduate student leadership



### Why we do what we do

