

News

Bult



UFS
UV

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



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Cover: Khotso Mokhele, Chancellor of the UFS.

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Content



Letter from the editor

In this issue readers are getting a taste of the new brand of the University of the Free State. The new brand was approved towards the end of 2010 after a lengthy and inclusive consultation process.

In the new branding process a clear distinction has been made between the official crest and the marketing brands. In this *Bult* we are giving you an idea of the elements of the marketing brand in the layout of the publication.

2010 was a year full of challenges and achievements in many areas and we are trying to bring some of it to you.

You can also read about some of the new processes and plans that will propel the UFS into a position among the world leading universities.

Ons dapper stap met die vorige uitgawe waarin ons mense gevra het om op die Bult-tydskrif in te

skryf het tot 'n groot mate vrugte afgewerp. Ons het e-posse, briewe en sms'e van oral gekry. Baie het met buitelandse seëls en buitelandse e-posadresse hier aangekom en dit was heerlik om te sien dat mense die tydskrif werklik wil hê.

Baie dankie ook aan almal wat 'n bydrae tot die tydskrif gemaak het. Iemand het selfs uit Europa 'n €200-noot gestuur.

Ons het egter ook lesers gehad wat ongelukkig was omdat *Bult* minder Afrikaanse as Engelse artikels gedra het. Taal bly 'n uitdaging omdat ons in 'n toenemende mate studente van oor die hele wêreld na ons universiteit trek. Engels 'n die enigste gemene deler waarmee ons met almal kan praat.

Ons wens u 'n wonderlike 2011 toe.

Leatitia Pienaar

Briewe • letters

"Baie geluk met Bult – dit bevat nie net besonder insiggewende artikels nie, maar lyk ook besonder mooi. Dit strek ons universiteit tot eer." – **André Wessels.**

"Baie dankie vir die nuutste weergawe van Bult. Ons het dit baie geniet om weer op hoogte gebring te word van wat by ons Alma Mater aangaan. Dit is voorwaar 'n kwaliteit produk waarop u baie trots kan wees." – **Ellana Delpert.**

"Nogmaals baie geluk met die standaard van Bult wat met elke uitgawe verhoog." – **Hennie Lambrechts.**

"Die artikels is nie meer vir my interessant nie en van die laaste 30 is 21 in Engels!" – **Annali Geldenhuys.**

"Ek het dit geniet om die nuutste uitgawe van die Bult te lees. Welgedaan!"

– **Brand Pretorius.**

"Ek is ook een van die wie die Bult nog geniet veral om op hoogte te bly oor wat op

my Alma Mater aan die gang is." – **Piet Zeeman.**

Uit 'n inskrywingsvorm uit Nederland: "Hier mij inteken vorm. Dit is so duur vir julle om 'n papier kopie na Nederland op te stuur, elektronies is al wonderlik." – **Yolande van den Berg.**

Hulde aan **Fanie Botha**

Oud-Minister Fanie Botha (1922-2010) was 'n staatsman, natuurmens en Christenvriend... Hierdie oudminister van Waterwese en Bosbou se lewe het wye paaie geloop van waar hy as oudste kind van pionier-ouers in Zambië gebore is tot waar hy uiteindelik Volksraadslid vir Soutpansberg geword het. As Minister van Waterwese en Bosbou het hy 'n meesterplan help skep vir ons land se watervraagstuk. Hy 'n besondere bydrae gelewer deur drie universiteite te motiveer om leerstoel in te stel, naamlik Geohidrologie by UV, Waterbenuttingsingenieurswese by UP en Besproeiingsingenieurswese by US.

Van sy dogter, Marine Botha





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Nuus

A **new brand** identity for historic **UFS**



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By Thebe Ikalafeng

MD – Brand Leadership

Project Director for the rebranding of the University of Free State.

Left: The newly refined UFS academic crest.

Below: The UFS Marketing brand.

Building a great brand takes years.

In the case of the University of Free State that's 106 years to be precise. To remain relevant and indeed great, a brand must adapt to changing times and be trusted by its stakeholders. Trust comes from meeting and exceeding their expectations, over time. Thus, in its simplest expression, "a brand is a promise made, and a promise delivered".













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Unlike commercial brands such as Coca-Cola, Nando's or Standard Bank, the binds to brands in higher education are deeply emotive and rather permanent, much like a birthright. You can change your brand of drink or network at any time, and move on right along to the next brand. But once an alumnus always an alumnus. As an alumnus, the university becomes a part of your permanent identity. A university alumnus has a lifelong association and stake in the university brand – irrespective of changes brought on by rebranding, mergers or any other changes.

The re-branding of the University of the Free State brand is the culmination of a comprehensive process that respects its heritage, embraces its present and positions it for the future. The eventual solution represents a consultative process across key stakeholders, in particular the primary customers, the students. The test of a successful re-brand of a university though, is how it resonates with the alumni – their ability to recognise, relate to and be proud to be associated with the institution. The new brand proposition recognises the academic heritage of the institution and its role in developing future leaders who will leave the university as changed and better individuals, and go on to transform the world. Captured by the expression – *Free Thinking* – the brand promise recognises that the university is a place which develops and encourages critical thinking while celebrating the freedom of expression, freedom of association and freedom to explore.

The revitalised University of Free State brand features two primary brand identities – a marketing brand, and the traditional academic brand. The marketing brand' which symbolically expresses a state of Free Thinking, is the vehicle for the university to market its brand and branded programmes such as faculties, units and departments. It is a vehicle to sell its programmes and identify its location among current and prospective students and partners. It's the university flag and a unifying symbol for all members of the university – staff, students and alumni. On the other hand, the academic brand, the historic University of Free State crest, that has

	Colour Retained from the current crest. White: Sincerity and Peace. Red: Patient, Victorious. Blue: Strength and Loyalty.	
	Simplified Shield The shape is more modern and simplified to align with the shape of the new marketing brand mark. This creates uniformity.	
	Rising Sun From existing crest meaning Glory and Splendour.	
	Hunting horns Retained from the 1935 crest in remembrance of 'Die Huis van Oranje'	The lily Indicating location in the Free State. The Orange river sprouts a particular lily referred to as the Orange River lily, or <i>Crinum bulbispermum</i> .
	Orange River Represents the Orange River and the old Orange Free State province	The red wave The flow of a river. Rivers represent sustainability. Water represents wisdom.
	Open Book Book of knowledge and inspiration. The left side represents past and present – knowledge obtained and imparted. The right side is empty and represents the future – Knowledge to be discovered.	
	Ribbon for text 'In veritate sapientiae lux': 'In truth is the light of wisdom'	

The evolution of the UFS Academic Crest symbols and their meaning.

been the symbol of the university since 1904, has been evolved to embrace all the university's stakeholders and relevant to the historical location of the country. Its shape has been evolved to align it with the traditional academic shield referenced in the marketing brand. But much of the symbolism of the crest remains virtually intact – recognising the location of the UFS brand as a distinct and one of the world's premier institutions of higher education, with a proud history of academic excellence and an ever evolving and relevant vibrant culture since its founding in 1904. **B**

Taking major strides – **a university in motion**



Some of the members of our International Advisory Council standing with Prof. Jonathan Jansen (left), Vice-Chancellor and Rector of our university, are Ms Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Chairperson of the Umlambo Foundation (and former Deputy-President of South Africa); Prof. Alice Pell, Vice-Provost International Affairs at Cornell University, USA; and Mr Gert Grobler, South Africa's Ambassador to Japan.

By Lacea Loader

There is dynamism of renewal and change at the University of the Free State. Huge strides have been made in various spheres of our university since the appointment of our Vice-Chancellor and Rector, Prof. Jonathan Jansen, in July 2009.

With his new vision for our university, we will for the first time be poised to take the lead in higher education in South Africa. In support of this, various initiatives and programmes have been put in place this past year and more are still to come.

The most recent include the establishment of an International Advisory Council (IAC) that will advise the leadership of our university on its future positioning strategies, especially in relation to its international ambitions as a place of scholarship and service among the leading universities in the world.

The council, constituted by Prof. Jansen, consists of nine high-profile international experts with proven expertise, leadership, influence and experience. Among them are Prof. Brenda Gourley, former Vice-Chancellor of the Open University in England, Mr Gert Grobler, South African Ambassador to Japan; and Ms Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, former Deputy-President of South Africa, and Executive

Chairperson of the Umlambo Foundation.

Another initiative is the launch of the Vice-Chancellor's Prestige Scholars Programme. This programme takes 25 young staff members with recent Ph.Ds and teaches them how to become professors through intensive local and international mentorship, research support and academic training. The programme focuses on the next generation of top researchers in South Africa who will fill the gap that is left by retiring academics and it will also add significantly to the diversity of the professoriate at our university. No other university in the country has a programme of such scale and intensity for building excellence and diversity through young scholars.

A further initiative to add to our intellectual capacity is the recruitment of top professors around the world. Some professors who have already joined us include names such as Kwandile Kondlo (from the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) – now heading our Centre for Africa Studies); Hussein Solomon (from the University of Pretoria and joining our Department of Political Science); Hasina Ebrahim (from the UKZN joining our Faculty of Education); Sechaba Mahlomaholo (from the North-West University, who will also be joining our Faculty of Education); Prof. Greg Barr (from the USA joining our Department of Music); Monty Jones (from Sierra Leone); Helena Strauss (joining our Department of English); Johan Neethling (joining our Faculty of Law); Cynthia Miller Naude (joining our Department of Classic and Near Eastern Studies); Charles Dumas (of the USA joining our Department of Drama and Theatre Arts).

From next year our university will be the only South African university offering a full-credit, compulsory, inter-disciplinary, undergraduate programme that requires students to engage seven major intellectual questions of our time in fields from astronomy to ethics to race and identity to global economy and religions. One of the key purposes of this course will be to give students a broad intellectual base in higher learning before they specialise, and to encourage students to engage in matters of identity and history; in other words, knowledge transformation. This curriculum will ensure that every student confronts these social dilemmas of the 21st century and to take part in in-depth discussions in the classroom.


One of our flagship projects, the International Institute for Study in Race, Reconciliation and Social Justice, will be launched on 27 January 2011. The institute will serve as a premier national and international site for scholarship and research on race, reconciliation, forgiveness and social justice studies within the context of higher education. The institute will combine rigorous research on the subjects with practical applications of evidence-based knowledge in improving people relations across borders. It will become a site for international scholars and practitioners to access knowledge, form partnerships, generate research and host conferences. The institute will



Some of the young scholars taking part in our university's Vice-Chancellor's Prestige Young Scholars Programme are, from the left: Dr Andréhette Verster, Ms Liezel Kotzé and Dr Nthabeleng Rammile.

be launched with the conferring of an honorary doctorate to Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

Another major stride for our university will be the launch of a new brand. This brand entails a vibrant marketing brand and an academic brand. The branding process, preceded by a vigorous consultation process, will be implemented gradually this year.

"I think the UFS have done much in a short time. Most outsiders see our university as a place where academic mandate is again at the centre of transformation, and a place attractive for academics and students. The support from external communities is strong and I have been receiving so much positive response during my visits to corporate and schools across the country. I am also happy to say that the applications for admission to our university next year has increased with 23%," says Prof. Jansen. 

Chancellor **Khotso Mokhele** a



Khotso Mokhele came full circle. He has grown up in Bloemfontein, travelled the world in academic, research and business capacity, and is back as the Chancellor of the University of the Free State.

Dr Khotso Mokhele was born and bred in Bloemfontein. After matriculating at Moroka High School, Thaba Nchu in the Free State, he went on to study at the University of Fort Hare in Alice in the Eastern Cape, where he graduated with a B.Sc. (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 a M.Sc. (Food Science) and a Ph.D. (Microbiology). Subsequently, he was awarded postdoctoral 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.

Dr Mokhele'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 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

visionary leader

By Mangaliso Radebe

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.

His influence on strategies for capacity building, particularly among black South Africans; a unified research support framework across the disciplines informed by national needs and priorities; and focus on exceptional quality and excellence, served to significantly advance the development of research and innovation in South Africa.

He was honoured with a Lifetime Achievement Technology Top 100 Award for his vision and major contribution in securing the Southern African Large Telescope (SALT), constructed outside Sutherland in the Northern Cape. Acting as leading advocate, he worked tirelessly to secure funding and support for the project from partners around the globe. His success resulted in a very tangible beacon of hope which allows South Africans to defiantly look beyond restriction towards the future with vivid optimism and demonstrates his ability to translate his inspirational beliefs into concrete reality.

Other awards for outstanding contributions to science, research and innovation include the Legion of Honour (Chevalier) by the president of France in recognition of his personal efforts in strengthening scientific ties between France and South Africa, a National Science and Technology Forum Award as well as honorary doctorates from the University of Stellenbosch, the University of the Witwatersrand, the University of the Free State, the University of the Western Cape, Technikon Free State, the University of Fort Hare, Technikon Pretoria and Port Elizabeth Technikon, and Rutgers University in New Jersey, USA.

Dr Mokhele relishes a challenge. He sees it as his responsibility to be involved in the broader science and educational arenas nationally and internationally. He 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).

He has been instrumental in the re-entry of South Africa into the international science community. He is an ambassador for South African and African science and represented the country on the Executive Board of United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and also, more recently, as vice-president for Scientific Planning and Review of the International Council for Science (ICSU) 2005-2008.

His strong leadership qualities and stature as a strategic thinker have also been recognised by the private sector and he serves as Chairman 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 is recognised as a visionary and inspirational leader who exerts a powerful influence within the country and abroad. His passion for education is perhaps most clearly demonstrated by his selection of his most proud career achievement. Whilst on involuntary leave from Fort Hare, he was persuaded to teach Mathematics and Science at Goronyane Secondary School in Thaba Nchu. On arrival he faced the challenge of teaching his students – who did not receive any quality tutoring for eighteen months – a two-year curriculum in a period of six months. Through sheer determination and by building an excellent rapport with his students, he achieved a 100% pass rate for his students at the end of that year. He cites this as a very special time indeed – an experience which “revealed the passionate educator within himself”.

This exceptional ability to inspire excellence and deliver results is today widely recognised, both locally and internationally. **B**

US visit is a **life-changing** experience for students

By Lize du Plessis



"We are bringing back a promise to implement change." Hearing this, one would hardly believe these are the words of a first-year student. When looking at the background the words are coming from, however, you would understand what motivates the maturity and positivity found in Zine Steenkamp, a M.B.,Ch.B. student at our university.

Zine, who matriculated in Pretoria, is one of 71 remarkable young students who formed part of our Student Leadership Development Programme – the only one of its kind in the country. After a rigorous selection process, the students were given the unique opportunity to visit the USA for two weeks during our spring holiday to ultimately bring back and implement lessons learnt from their American counterparts.

The group's journey to the USA started in New York, where they spent time exploring the "Big Apple". From there they travelled in groups of

about ten to various universities, where they took part in academic and cultural programmes.

Thanks to his visit to the USA, an eighteen-year old B.Com. Law student now realises “our problems are not unique”. Sibusiso Tshabala, who grew up in Welkom in the Free State, is well aware of the fact that 71 students cannot change the UFS. “But what we are bringing back here is our gift to the campus.” Sibusiso visited the Appalachian State University, together with Zine and eight other students.

“We are the ones showing the world Kopsies is about more than just Reitz.” So says Nandi Bester, who resides in Emily Hobhouse and is studying Governance and Political Transformation. After her visit to the College of the Holy Cross, Nandi firmly believes this group of first-years are all going to be leaders – “not only on campus, but in South Africa as well”.

The selection process focused on the individual as a whole. After a pre-selection process, the students attended a panel interview consisting of staff from the UFS. After being selected, they attended various workshops focusing on, amongst others, research, leadership and diversity before their departure.

“It is clear that our students changed, and that is due to their courage and commitment to the programme.” So says Rudi Buys, Dean of Student Affairs, who accompanied the students on their trip. He travelled to seven of the nine institutions and met with deans of student affairs to assess the experience of our host institutions. “In debriefing sessions with our students while abroad it was apparent that they achieved what we aimed at in the programme, namely to explore issues of difference and diversity in their groups and on a personal level,” he says.

After their return, the students hardly got a chance to recover from the jet lag. They are now involved in student-life programmes on our Main and Qwaqwa campuses, establishing volunteer and mentoring programmes for their fellow students.

However, they are all happy to bring back what they learnt overseas. Zine says after experiencing the American culture and diversity, she has a newfound respect for South Africa and where we are heading as a nation.

The maturity and potential these students bring back to our university become clear when another staff member who accompanied them on their trip, Dineo Gaothiwe, Head of our Office for International Affairs, talks about her experiences. “It was very evident to me that our students were fully aware of the need to take back what they are learning and implement that when they return to campus,” she says.

Even though the trip was clearly remarkable, our students remain proud Kopsies. Sibusiso rightly states how his being away from the university taught him just how great we are. “I had to be taken away to see how well we are doing.” **B**



Students in the United States.



Lengau makes a difference in



The producing of fire bricks is the newest project at Lengau.

The next time you travel on the N1 outside Bloemfontein on your way to Colesberg, take a left turn at the N6 sign. After a short distance you will be amazed to suddenly find yourself surrounded by pieces of land all belonging to our university. But what you won't realise is that there is much more to these farms than what meets the eye.

On your left hand side you will find Lengau Agricultural Development Centre. Lengau, pronounced "Le-now", is the Sesotho word for cheetah. Established in 2004 on a section of the Sydenham Experimental Farm, this centre has developed into one of the UFS's success stories in terms of community empowerment. But, as you know, behind every successful project is a determined and passionate leader.

Dr Leán van der Westhuizen has been driving the initiative since its beginning and has seen the centre go from strength to strength. Previously an agricultural entomologist at the Department of Zoology and Entomology, Leán has faced many challenges in the process of bringing Lengau where it is today, but the difference that the centre makes in the lives of community members and

farmers is what makes his efforts worth the while.

"Our vision is to place successful and model farmers in agricultural communities. When they come to the farm, they are often strugglers, but we help to improve their quality of life," says Leán. Farmers apply to receive mentorship at the centre. They are then selected according to a set of criteria. The farmers are then allocated a piece of common land for their livestock to graze in. The cattle are branded and dehorned and bull calves are castrated. They are also subjected to a strict animal-health programme.

Farmers receive free mentoring, monitoring, advice and training. When their herds have grown to approximately 21 reproductive animals, they qualify for government assistance and Leán writes a letter to the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform to assist the farmers in getting their own land. Thus far six farmers who received their training in the programme and have been allocated their own land. One farmer, Stephan Nthethe, has been awarded R2,3 million but is still searching for a suitable farm. Stephan came to Lengau with 46 cattle and his herd has grown to reach approximately 100 reproductive animals. Another former trainee farmer, Elson Dashane, is now a Bonsmara stud breeder.

An agreement with BKB Louwid Auctioneers resulted in weekly livestock auctions taking place at Lengau. Farmers who are part of the Lengau programme get exposed to commercial agriculture by auctioning their cattle alongside those of commercial farmers. The small-hold farmers are taught which qualities an animal should have and are assisted in getting their cattle up to that standard.

The auctions have grown to become so established that a Sussex bull was sold for R135 000 this year.

The newest project at Lengau is the manufacturing of fire bricks. These bricks are made from newspaper and water and are a good and sustainable substitute for fire wood in an area where wood is a scarcity and the harvesting of wood can harm the environment. The project is still in its growing phase, but soon entrepreneurs will be able to manufacture it and sell it to the community at a reasonable price.


the community

By Stefanie Jansen van Rensburg

Leán is excited when he talks about his next big plan. "At the farm we have energy-poor neighbours in the nearby township. My plan is to produce renewable energy from methane gas that we get from the cattle manure. Community members can then be trained at the centre to produce the methane and heat production units and they can then sell it to others." Funding is still needed and Leán will be visiting Minnesota in the USA to acquire more knowledge. The dairy at the neighbouring Paradys experimental farm will soon be run on electricity generated from methane gas. Other plans that Leán plan to pursue is the expanding of their credit-bearing short courses and the empowering of the farm workers of commercial farmers in order for them to also develop into successful farmers.

Farming is not the only activity going on at

Lengau. A sewing project in collaboration with the department of Consumer Science and Home Economics is training community members and perfecting their needlework skills in order for them to make a living from it. A Life Skills Programme is also run by Mrs Estelle Heideman and Rev. Kiepie Jaftha and targets mainly the staff members of the Paradys Experimental Farm and Lengau, as well as their families.

Growing up on a farm in the Graafwater area, Leán has always loved the farming life. He enjoys empowering people in any area and sees the success of the farmers as the highlight of his work at Lengau. His dream is one of a South African agriculture where both black and white farmers can achieve sustainable success. "Land reform in this country simply has to be successful in order to achieve food security for our people." 



Leán van der Westhuizen (front) is the director of Lengau. With him is Alfred Mxhaka.

Centre **demystifies maths**

The Centre for Education Development (CED) at our university is continuing in its remarkable quest to demystify mathematics and science for learners by acting as a regional centre to coordinate and manage Family Math and Family Science projects. Funds from HP will take the project further.

This year the CED awarded certificates to 111 intermediate phase and 17 senior and further education and training phase students who performed well in the two programmes.

The programmes also served as the practical component of the students' community-service learning module. In addition to training sessions they also presented Family Science community workshops at five schools in the Heidedal and Mangaung area near Bloemfontein in order to qualify for the certificates.

Family Math is a sub-programme of the EQUALS

Programme at the Lawrence Hall of Science, University of California in Berkeley and Family Science is a project of the Portland State University in Portland Oregon.

The Family Math and Family Science projects are about:

- assisting parents and educators through training workshops to achieve further development of children in mathematics and science;
- raising mathematics and science literacy levels among young children, making use of everyday experiences in and around the home;
- developing learning and teaching materials that are suitable as well as affordable for use in community workshops as well as in the formal classroom situation; and
- constructivist and hands-on methodologies in the teaching of mathematics and science for children with different learning styles.

Ms Lorraine Botha, Family Math and Family Science facilitator from the CED, says: "In order to suit the South African situation, some activities of the original Family Math and Family Science programmes were adapted for South African use and were also translated into English, Afrikaans, Sesotho, isiXhosa and Setswana."



and science

By Mangaliso Radebe

Since the inception of the programme numerous community as well as formal training workshops, which included parents, learners, community leaders, educators, subject advisors and student educators, were conducted in the Free State, Northern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, Western Cape and even in Zambia.

From research undertaken by the CED it became evident that reading with understanding, numeracy, problem solving, and so on, were amongst some of the problems young learners of the foundation phase experience in learning mathematics and science. With this in mind, and after consulting with officials of the Free State and Northern Cape Department of Education, it was decided to make an attempt to address some of the learning issues by utilising the benefits of the Family Math and Family Science programmes in the formal school situation. At the beginning of 2009, after the CED secured funding, it launched its Family Math and Family Science roll-out initiative in the two provinces.

The mission of this project is to demystify mathematics and science for learners in the early school years by raising their levels of understanding and changing their attitudes towards sciences and mathematics. This is

done by exposing learners to Family Math and Family Science activities on a regular basis in the classroom and integrating the activities into the curriculum.

A total number of 5 112 learners from predominately rural communities in the Free State and Northern Cape provinces were actively involved in doing mathematics and science activities during 2009. To achieve this, the CED trained nine subject advisors to act as coordinators in their respective regions with the responsibility of training and supporting local teachers in the implementation of the programme.

"One of the key elements of the success (and sustainability) of the project is the fact that the CED, apart from rendering ongoing training, also issues the 134 participating teachers with sufficient training material, like manipulatives and other activity material to be utilised in the classroom," says Ms Elizna Prinsloo, Family Math and Family Science Project leader of the CED. The materials are manufactured on site by CED staff.

The manufacturing of materials was made possible by the continued financial support of sponsors like ABSA and SANRAL. 



Photos: Cobus van Breda.

Regter Hancke groet na 14 jaar op UV- Raad



Regter Faan Hancke (tweede van links) het na 'n lang verbintenis die voorsitterstoel in die UV-Raad ontruim. Hier is hy en sy vrou, Benita, by jarelange vriende Blouwille Theron (links) en Jan Grobler by die afskeidsgeleentheid.

Foto: Leatitia Pienaar.

Na 14 jaar op die UV-Raad is daar hierdie jaar afskeid geneem van regter Faan Hancke. Vir tien van hierdie jare was hy eers waarnemende voorsitter en later voorsitter, 'n onbaatsugtige taak wat hom lang tye weggeneem het van sy familie. Alles om van die Universiteit van die Vrystaat 'n model-instelling te maak.

By sy afskeidsgeleentheid nis die volgende woorde gebruik om hom te beskryf: "...integriteit, lojaliteit, eerlikheid. Hy het nooit op sy woord teruggegaan nie."

Vra 'n mens hom uit oor die hoogtepunte van sy dekade as voorsitter van ons UV-Raad, antwoord hy dat dit waarskynlik die formidabele persone was wat hy ontmoet het as gevolg van sy verbintenis met ons universiteit. Hy lag met 'n bietjie selfspot: "Ek lei maar 'n eensame lewe hier (by die hof), want hier ontmoet ek mos net my kollegas en beskuldigdes."

Onder die interessante persone wat hy ontmoet het, tel oudpresident Nelson Mandela, topwetenskaplikes en -sakemanne.

Oor sy planne vir die toekoms sê regter Hancke dat hy nog by ons Fakulteit Regsgeleerdheid betrokke gaan bly met die opleiding van regslui. Dan is hy ook 'n deelydse boer. Hy vertel trots van sy Nguni-stoet op sy plaas tussen Jagersfontein en Fauresmith. Tans boer hy "net op Saterdag" en is die "boerderij bietjie verwaarloos". Hy hoop om meer tyd hier deur te bring. Die 63-jarige regter vertel dat hy beplan om oor die volgende drie jaar af te tree. Dan wil hy en sy vrou, Benita, hulle liefde vir reis verder uitleef. Hul vier kinders en drie kleinkinders verskaf ook vir oupa en ouma baie vreugde.

En hoe voel die trotse oud-Kovsie oor die toekoms van ons universiteit? Regter Hancke antwoord sonder om 'n oomblik te aarsel: "Ek het baie vertroue in die universiteit en sy mense, ook in die Raad en my opvolger, regter Ian van der Merwe, die bestuur en die rektor. Dis 'n baie goeie universiteit en prof. Jonathan Jansen is 'n dinamiese persoon, 'n mens-mens, en 'n opvoedkundige in murg en been."

In sy tyd as voorsitter het die omstrede Reitz-voorval die voorblaaie en en hoofnuus oor die wêreld gehaal. Hy sê onomwonde dat dit 'n baie traumatiese tyd was. Maar integrasie is onafwendbaar.

Op sy rustige, beredeneerde manier voeg hy by dat mense maar net die geskiedenisboek van die universiteit moet lees, want "daar is niks nuuts onder die son nie. Probleme manifesteer hulleself net anders, maar die universiteit kom altyd sterker aan die ander kant uit." **B**

– **Leatitia Pienaar en Margaret Linström.**



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Research



At the official opening of the Jonathan Edwards Center Africa were, from the left, front: Proff. Harry Stout, Jonathan Jansen; back: Dolf Britz, Kenneth Minkema, Adriaan Neele and Francois Tolmie.

UFS houses Jonathan Edwards Center Africa

By Leonie Bolleurs

A university is only as good as the company it keeps. These were the words of our Vice-Chancellor and Rector, Prof. Jonathan Jansen, at the official opening of the Jonathan Edwards Center Africa (JECA) at the UFS earlier this year. This centre, which is affiliated with the Jonathan Edwards Center at the Yale University in New Haven in the USA, was established in 2009 in terms of an agreement between our Faculty of Theology and the USA centre.

"This will be a place where our students and staff can think critically and forcefully on issues of common humanity," said Prof. Jansen about the centre that will serve as a research, education and publication hub for the study of Jonathan Edwards and evangelical history. The centre will also further the UFS's goals to develop links with the international academic community.

Prof. Dolf Britz, Director of the JECA, said: "This interest in Edwards globally has in part been fuelled by the work of the Jonathan Edwards Center at Yale University, of which the sole mission is to support inquiry into the life, writings, and legacy of Jonathan Edwards by providing resources that encourage critical appraisal of the historical importance and contemporary relevance of one of North America's theological geniuses.

"This pastor, revivalist, Christian philosopher, missionary, and President of Princeton University is the subject of intense scholarly interest throughout the world, because of his significance as a historical figure and the profound imprint he left on America's religious, political and intellectual landscapes."

Coinciding with the opening of the JECA was the inaugural lecture of Prof. Adriaan Neele from Yale. He was appointed as Extraordinary Professor of Jonathan Edwards Studies at the UFS in 2009, following the vast growth of the centre in Africa. With the establishment of the centre in 2009, a structured master's degree in Jonathan Edwards Studies was also developed. Prof. Neele is also teaching an online undergraduate course on the life and theology of Edwards at the UFS.

His inaugural lecture was on *A transitional moment in theology* where he argued for the classicality and catholicity of Edwards' theology.

About Prof. Neele joining the UFS, Prof. Britz says: "The centre and the appointment of Prof. Neele will provide sustainable scholarship of primary sources in new and promising ways." A number of international and African postgraduate students have already joined the centre.

The presence of two leading scholars, also from Yale, at the opening of the JECA contributed to the UFS's quest to be known and trusted as an

internationally renowned theological and training faculty. Prof. Harry Stout, Chair of the Department of American Religious History, and Prof. Kenneth Minkema, Executive Director of the Jonathan Edwards Center at Yale, both participated in the opening of the centre.

Prof. Stout commented: "This is an exciting development between universities renowned for excellence in learning and innovation in scholarship. Given the shared international interest in Edwards, we are actively seeking to build a cooperative academic and educational venture, including student and faculty exchanges, development of online resources, including primary texts and curricular teaching aids in the appropriate languages. This launch is a testimony to the religious and academic leaders in South Africa and we are delighted to be part of it.

Prof. Kenneth also expressed his delight in being associated with this venture: "The establishment of this renowned centre for research, education and publication at your university is a significant expansion of Edwards's scholarship and will serve widely both academia and the church."

Our Dean of Theology, Prof. Francois Tolmie, said that he was excited about the plans to pay sustained critical attention to Edwards's thought through the opening of JECA in conjunction with Yale University. "I welcome this initiative with much anticipation as the strategic relationship between Yale University and the faculty develops in unprecedented ways, attracting doctoral students from as far as Southern Africa, South Korea and America. Our affiliation with Yale University will also assist us in continuing to foster high aspiring scholarship, student and faculty support," he said. **B**

Prof. **Lodewyk** and team **pioneer**

By Igno van Niekerk

“It makes you dream, but doesn’t let you sleep” – discovering new realities and building a lasting legacy. The word conjures up all kinds of descriptions: Futuristic, challenging, interesting, fascinating. But all these descriptions fail to describe the incredible sense of wonder that astounds you when you start conversing with Prof. Lodewyk Kock. Here, in the heart of the Free State, on our Main Campus, South Africa is becoming a world leader in one of the most challenging areas of science hitherto known to man: nanotechnology.

Just take a moment and try to imagine what someone would look like that’s on the forefront of one of the greatest breakthroughs in modern science. What about an overly academic person, sharing unpronounceable scientific terminology? Someone so occupied in science that they forget about life? An Einstein look-alike with monotonous pedagogical refrains on the virtue of science?

Enters Prof. Lodewyk Kock. Head of the Division Lipid Biotechnology. Everything you would not expect. A smile, a firm handshake, radiating energy and a sparkle in the eye. Add to that an uncanny knack to turn scientific jargon into compelling metaphors, and you start getting the picture.

Before Prof. Kock starts the discussion, he is determined to make it very clear that the incredible research his department has been credited with is not a solo-effort. It is the result of tremendous co-operation between the Department of Microbial, Biochemical and Food Biotechnology, the Department of Physics (under the leadership of Prof. Hendrik Swart), and the Centre of Microscopy (under the leadership of Prof. Pieter van Wyk).

Having given the necessary credit to his colleagues, Prof. Kock also shares parts of a



Prof. Lodewyk Kock and Chantel Swart.



presentation which Ph.D. student Chantel Swart presented at the International

Specialized Symposium on Yeast (ISSY28) in Bangkok, Thailand.

As Prof. Kock and Chantel explain their research it becomes clear why the work that was done has been accepted for publication in two international ISI-accredited scientific journals. This is the first time that nanotechnology has been applied in the field of Biology in this way. One of the reasons

discovery of the nano world



being that the team had access to the Department of Physics' PHI700 Scanning Auger Nanoprobe linked to a Scanning Electron Microscope and Argon etching.

The use of these machines assisted the team in not only investigating yeast cells which were approximately 5 micrometres long, but they could also "slice" these cells, and observe the impact of chemical changes taking place in these cells which were previously exposed to different environmental conditions. To give some indication as to the size of the cells, the cells were enlarged 40 000 to 50 000 times, and the layers that were sliced off,

were as thin as three nanometres (a nanometre is one thousandth the size of a micrometre).

Prof. Kock's computer lights up with colourful pictures of cells as the duo keeps on talking about the team's findings. Findings which Prof. Kock summarises in his passionate visionary style: "Makes you dream, but keep you awake."

The possibilities are endless. The research is opening new realities, new ways of thinking, and yes, new possibilities. And with the same passion that Prof. Kock explains the colourful graphs on the computer screen, he talks about the fact that this is the time to stay ahead. This research has been so ground-breaking that the momentum that can be gained from the follow-up and continuation of the process will ensure that the UFS will be renowned for the pioneering role that it has played in this field of nanotechnology.

A question that keeps lurking at the back of my mind as the discussion continues is how this research would influence prospective students. Imagine – a world-class research team with an incredible track record. An absolutely intriguing field of study, and to crown it all – a fabulous team of passionate people who loves to share, are willing to work across academic boundaries – and are making a true difference in the world. It seems too good to be true.

Being unacquainted to the field of nanotechnology, I never would have thought that someone would be able to make me excited about it. Yet, upon leaving Prof. Kock's office, I feel a sense of celebration. As if I've just been part of a World Cup winning team's dressing room celebrations.

And then, I realise, that's exactly what has happened. I've had the tremendous benefit of meeting key members of a truly world-class team. A team whose legacy, while it is in the making, is already a solid cornerstone for one of the greatest universities of the future, because they have learnt the power of co-operation across departmental boundaries, they have found passion in their purpose, and most of all, their humane humility keeps them on track to greatness.

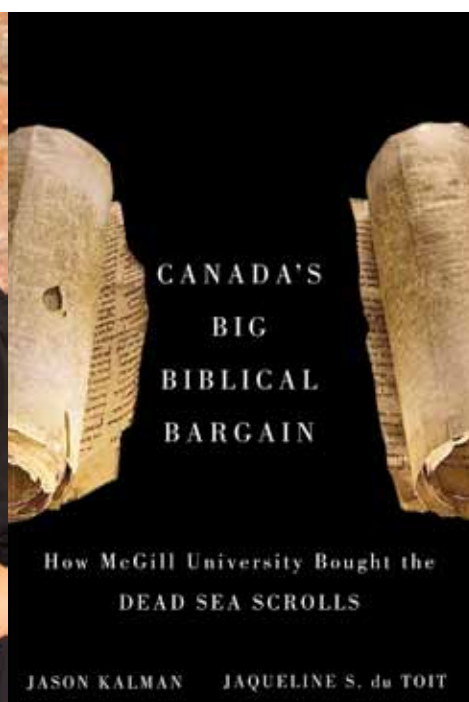
And they dream while they're awake! **B**

Prof. Jackie **unravels the story behind** the Dead Sea Scrolls

By Leonie Bolleurs



Prof. Jackie du Toit.



Cover of *Canada's Big Biblical Bargain*.

Photos: Leonie Bolleurs

What will you get when you add up a Canadian Commonwealth Scholarship, a television documentary and a passion for ancient antiques? Throw in with that a measure of international relations, religious negotiation, and scholars' adventures and you will find yourself a copy of the publication *Canada's Big Biblical Bargain, How McGill University bought the Dead Sea Scrolls*. And once you dig a little deeper you will see that an academic from our own university, Prof. Jackie du Toit from the Department of Classical and Near Eastern Studies is the co-author of this book that was distributed further than the limited academic target audience.

Jackie spent five years in Montreal at the McGill

University on a Canadian Commonwealth Scholarship (January 1997 until January 2002) where she met Dr Jason Kalman, co-author of *Canada's Big Biblical Bargain*. Dr Kalman is also, amongst others, a research fellow at our university.

In 1999 Jackie and Dr Kalman decided to follow up on an obscure mention in a television documentary that McGill at one time owned the Dead Sea Scrolls that were discovered in caves on the north-western shore of the Dead Sea in 1947-48.

"At first, our intention was only to satisfy our curiosity aroused by an arcane piece of information that would bind our alma mater to manuscripts dating to the time of Jesus, also called the 'greatest

manuscript discovery of the twentieth century’,” Jackie says.

Jackie continues her story: “To our astonishment, in the basement of the Faculty of Religious Studies and in the McGill University Archives we discovered boxes upon boxes of original correspondence and documentation, mainly between Prof. Robert Scott, former professor of Old Testament at McGill and the initiator of the purchase, and Lankester Harding, Jordanian director of antiquities.

“We realised that we had at our disposal an invaluable source of information on a matter of great historical but also contemporary import. The history of the purchase also afforded us the opportunity to comment on antiquities, as movable cultural objects across national borders, in the face of weak international regulation of the movement of such objects.

“Because McGill never received its portion of the Dead Sea Scrolls, and because it was a legal transaction between the Jordanian government and the institution, this purchase allowed us a unique opportunity to use this historical event as a foil to portray the broader dilemma faced by scholars agitating for the protection of antiquities as common heritage to all humankind.”

As backdrop to McGill University’s claim to some of these invaluable finds, Jackie explains: “While officially the Bedouin (founders of the scrolls) had to turn the materials over to Jordanian government authorities, they were more inclined to sell them. In exchange for selling the material uniquely to the government at a fair price the Bedouin would avoid prosecution. The Jordanian government initially put up a significant amount of money for the purchase, but money was running out fast and numerous fragments continued to appear. The government could not afford additional purchases. Lankester Harding, and the director of the Palestine Archaeological Museum, Father Roland de Vaux, offered the fragments for sale to groups outside the country. If an institution provided funds for purchasing the fragments, the materials would remain in Jerusalem for several years for initial study and publication and would then be released to the institutions.

“The first institution to come forward was McGill

University. Despite the intense media hype, the manuscripts never reached McGill. In 1954 and 1956 the university paid approximately \$20 000 to become the owner of the largest collection of Dead Sea Scroll Cave 4 fragments except for the government of Jordan. The scrolls were nationalised by Jordan in the early 1960s and never left East Jerusalem and the then Palestine Archaeological Museum where they were kept.

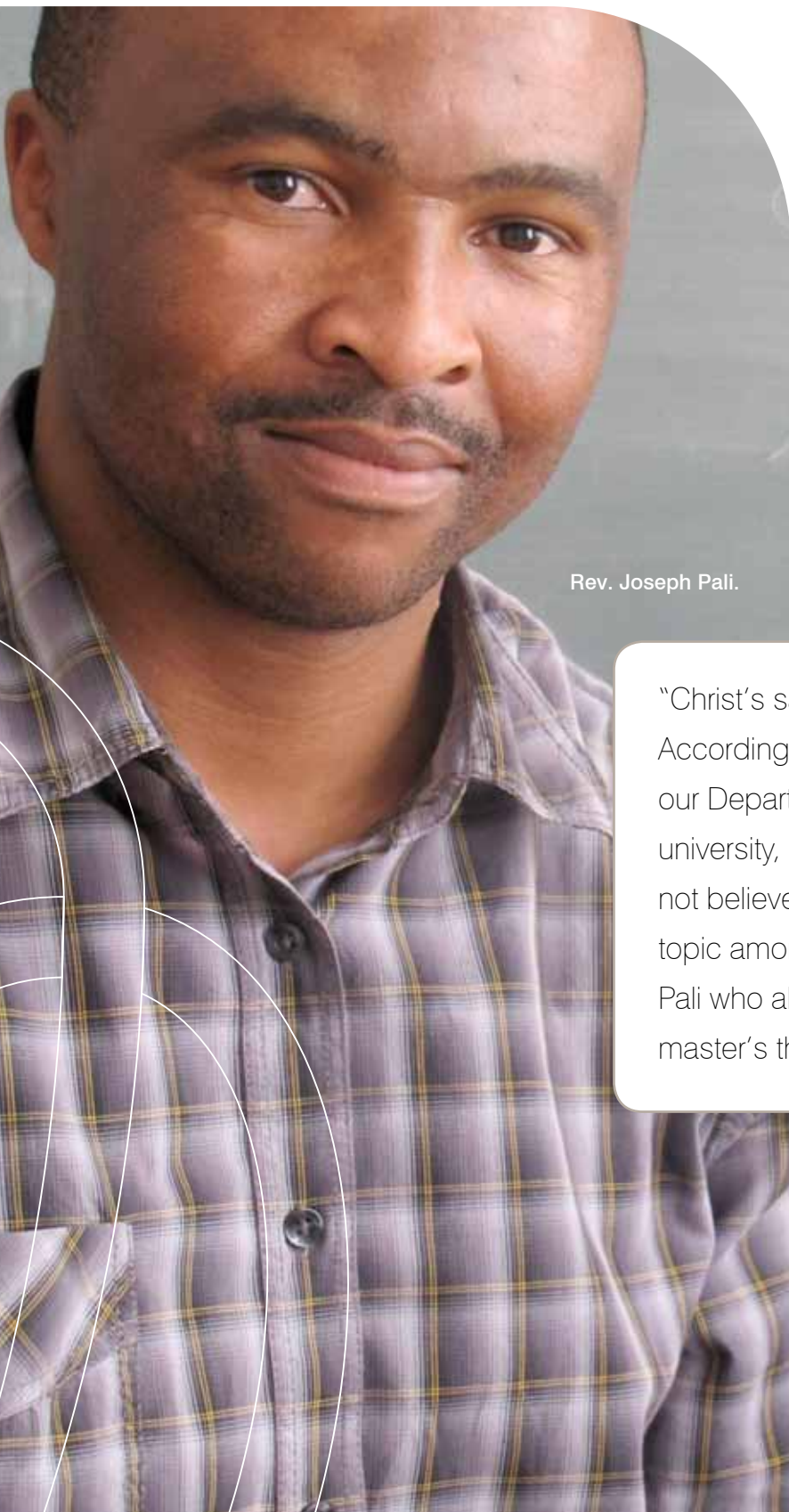
“From 2002 Dr Kalman and I worked on the project on and off. Relying heavily on McGill’s archival sources, the publication uses the story of this purchase as a window on the acquisition, study, and preservation of the scrolls and explores the role that state treasures, especially antiquities, play in national identity formation. We also looked at the forces that made the Jordanian government decide to renege on their initial purchase agreement in favour of keeping the manuscript find intact and in the host country. This creates the ideal foil to discuss the difficulty in determining ‘ownership’ of cultural property in the face of the forces of geopolitics.”

Jackie said that they did most of their work on the book via Skype and e-mail. The product of our decade-long research partnership, Canada’s Big Biblical Bargain, was then finally published in May 2010 by McGill Queen’s University Press.

Jackie and Dr Kalman’s hard work paid off as they received positive feedback from a number of sources, amongst them Prof. Peter Flint, holding the distinguished Canada Research Chair in Dead Sea Scrolls Studies at Trinity Western University.

He had this to say about their work: “With several Canadian museums having exhibited the Dead Sea Scrolls, Canada’s Big Biblical Bargain could not be timelier. It fills a distinctive void, and is a serious advance in state-of-the-art research. It will without a doubt become the authoritative source on how the relationship between the Dead Sea Scrolls and Canada became firmly established.”

“With this project we also debunked many of the myths about the Dead Sea Scrolls, including allegations of the Vatican’s involvement in hiding the texts from scholars and the possibility that they contained earth-shattering revelations, Jackie concluded. **B**



Rev. Joseph Pali.

Rev. Pali sheds light on **African beliefs** and **Christianity**

By Leonie Bolleurs

"Christ's sacrifice ended all ritual sacrifices." According to Rev. Joseph Pali, lecturer in our Department of Practical Theology at our university, this statement is a fact and he does not believe otherwise. "It is a very controversial topic among African Christians," said Rev. Pali who also made this topic the focus of his master's thesis.

Joseph obtained his B.Th. and honours in Greek with distinction at the UFS. He also completed the master's degree of Divinity and was a fellow of our Grow our Own Timber programme, where he completed his master's degree. He is currently busy with his Ph.D. on Leadership and congregational analyses.

According to Joseph, many African Christians from different denominations such as African Independent Churches and mainline churches are

engaged in the practice of sacrifices to unknown spirits, most of the time their ancestors.

Joseph asks the two controversial and critical questions: "Why do African Christians still practise the sacrifices to the ancestors while it is clear from the Scriptures that contact and communication with the dead is unbiblical and not desired by God? Secondly, what is the implication of Christ's sacrifice in relation to the practices of African sacrifices?"

"The practice of sacrifices to the ancestors is not unique to African people. It is also practised by the Chinese and the Indians. Sacrifices per se were practised by ancient nations such as the Israelites, the Romans and the Greeks. The motives for the Israelites' sacrifice were offering, sharing, a renewal of the communion with Yahweh and Yahweh's way of dealing with sin. The sacrifices of Israelites were unique because they were ordained and performed on Yahweh's command. On the other hand, the motives for the African sacrifices are for communion, thanksgiving, appeasing the spirits to induce them to do well, and fear that if one does not sacrifice, one will not be blessed or things will not go well with one. The recipients of the African sacrifices are the ancestors and spirits and God.

"When reading the book of Hebrews, one sees that Christ's entrance into the presence of God as our sacrifice brought us as believers the gift of perfection, sanctification, and purification." Joseph explains these concepts: "Perfection is the goal of Christian life which Jesus achieved for us. It was not attainable under the old covenant. Sanctification implies that we are set apart and dedicated to God. Christ's sacrifice cleansed (purified) our conscience and external defilement so that we may now draw near to God.

"Secondly, Christ's sacrifice was performed only once and is effective for all time. It is final; it will never be repeated and it has replaced all Old Testament sacrifices," he says.


These sacrifices that were instituted by God in the Old Testament era were ineffective and temporal and were only copies of the images of the good things to come. "The implication for African Christians is that African sacrifices – like

Old Testament sacrifices – are also replaced and are irrelevant and ineffective to the worship of a Christian God," Joseph continues.

"If African Christians continue to engage in the practices of sacrifices to the ancestors they expose themselves to three dangers. The first one is conscious and deliberate theological syncretism (joining two religions and trying to make them one) which in a way denies and rejects the finality of revelation in Christ and the core truths of the Scriptures. Secondly, sacrifices to the ancestors expose us to the act of idolatry because ancestors draw the attention away from God. Lastly, if we deny the benefits of the sacrifice of Christ, we profane the blood of Christ and we insult the Spirit of grace. We have to expect fearful judgement of God and we shall forfeit the promises of the new covenant."

Joseph is clear about his beliefs. "The practice of sacrifices to the ancestors is a ritual of African Traditional Religion, not of Christianity. Christ's sacrifice has made African sacrifices, Old Testament sacrifices and all other ritual sacrifices redundant. The sacrifices to the ancestors, as they are an act of idolatry and practice of syncretism, have been replaced by the effective sacrifice of Christ," he said

Joseph, however, acknowledges that the sacrifices to the ancestors are part of African Christians' background to understand the richness and effectiveness of Christ's sacrifice. A person from Europe, for example, will not have the same understanding because he or she does not have the same background of an African with regard to sacrifices to the spirits.

"I would like to exhort all African Christians to embrace and glorify the sacrifice of Christ as it offers abundant benefits and leave behind the practice of sacrifices to the ancestors, as it is a ritual practice of African Traditional Religion and undermines effectiveness of the sacrifice of Christ," Joseph concludes. 



Unit takes new look **at predators**

By Stefanie Jansen van Rensburg

Damages and losses in excess of R1 390 million in any industry are staggering, yet for livestock farmers it is a daily challenge, not yet taken seriously by the powers that be. The ALPRU (African Large Predator Research Unit) is tackling livestock losses due to medium-sized predators head on and has had great successes with research, influencing policy change and information collection and dissemination.

The unit, based at the University of the Free State under the leadership of Prof. HO de Waal as head scientist, is a research-based facility, gaining ground in the management of predators to the benefit of farmers and the country's food, wool and mohair production alike.

The impact of medium-sized predators cannot be ignored. "Farmers are going out of business due to the jackal and caracal," says Prof. HO. He adds that the unit is "assisting in the creation of a coordinated predation management system in South Africa, with the aim of reducing the impact of current levels of predation, which in turn brings back the livelihood to rural South Africa. The aim is to assist in getting a predation management system operational and maintain research at the same time."

The objectives of ALPRU include:

- Information gathering, collating, organising and storage.
- Serving as a centre of excellence for dissemination of information.
- Creating a network of individuals, interest groups, institutions, NGO's and government.
- Undertaking research programmes by ALPRU or support the initiatives of others.
- Promoting association, cooperation and collaboration with specialist interest groups.
- Remaining holistic and sensitive towards the African biodiversity.

Hence the activities of ALPRU may include:

- Conducting comprehensive research on large African predators, in southern Africa and Africa.
- Engaging in cross border programs at the request of governments, universities,

- conservation bodies, NGO's and individuals.
- Focusing on the African biodiversity in terms of the indigenous fauna and flora.
- Securing continuity in research and habitat management over the short, medium and long term.
- Encouraging the exchange of students at under- and post-graduate level.
- Maintaining the highest level of scientific integrity.
- Remaining independent and impartial.

The Canis-Caracal Programme was launched in December 2004 by ALPRU to assist in managing and reducing the financial impact of two medium-sized predators, the black-backed jackal (*Canis mesomelas*) and the caracal (*Caracal caracal*).

It has become a success story in the making for ALPRU. The caracal and black-backed jackal are important predator species in South African wildlife, although they negatively impact on the livestock and wildlife industries. Despite continuous efforts to reduce the populations and limit loss, little progress has been made with predation, which may even be on the increase. Record keeping and research has collapsed since the mid 1990s, a fact that ALPRU, predominantly funded by the private sector, hopes to rectify. The UFS's contribution to date has been the transfer of knowledge with the qualification of four master's and one Ph.D. student working in the Unit or under the supervision of ALPRU on topic based programmes. Several new studies are planned.

In May 2010, delegates from the programme were invited by the Wildlife Services of the USDA to undertake a fact-finding trip. Prof. HO was accompanied by representatives from the National Museum Bloemfontein, the Department of Environmental Affairs (Pretoria) and the Predation Management Forum (comprising producer organisations, namely the South African Mohair Growers' Association, Wildlife Ranching SA, National Wool Growers' Association and the Red Meat Producers' Organisation).

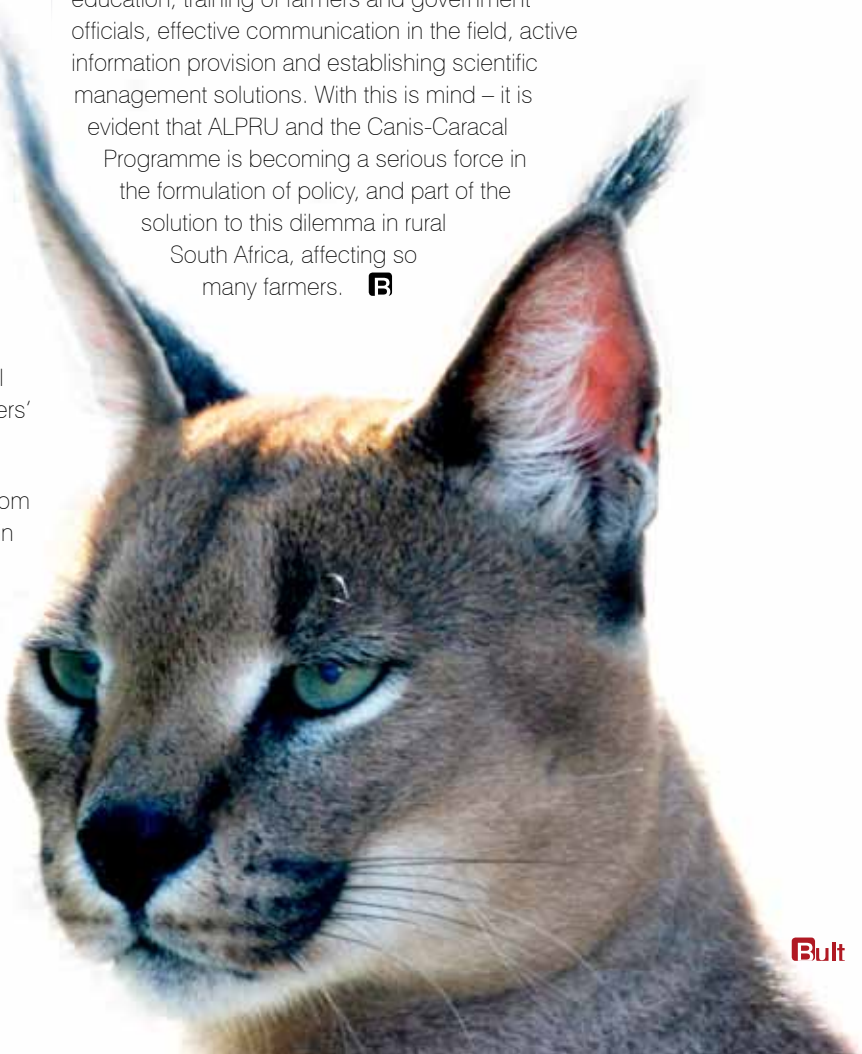
Valuable lessons and information were gained from the Wildlife Services and five state departments in the management and control of predators such as the coyote (*Canis latrans*). Prof. HO admits that the trip highlighted major shortcomings in the South African systems and that we are far behind those of the USA, in terms of research and predation management. He ascribed this to neglect in the past 16 years.

The Canis-Caracal Programme is well

supported at ground level by farmers and hunters providing constant and interactive information, an important aspect of its success. Prof. HO explains that they are not just a data-capturing agent but actively interact and communicate the findings to those that need it. Regular input is given to those formulating policy and it is in the persuasion of government that the successes will become evident. He says that the USA has a culture of effective lobbying that South Africans have yet to learn. "It is a valuable tool in getting results, support, goodwill and funding."

Methods of control of the predators have been used for decades and in no way does ALPRU advocate the total extermination of a species. To the contrary, this has never been successful, with detrimental effects on the environment. The caracal and the black-backed jackal are two beautiful animals among South African wildlife; it is the interaction with humans and their activities – leading to conflict – that needs to be managed. The unit's objective is not to kill animals but to save livestock in a scientific manner. Understanding animals is key to managing the problem and hence the mantra of "weigh and know" is used by those in the field, it is all in gaining knowledge of the habits and characters of these very intelligent, opportunistic animals.

Where does the solution lie? Simply; through education, training of farmers and government officials, effective communication in the field, active information provision and establishing scientific management solutions. With this in mind – it is evident that ALPRU and the Canis-Caracal Programme is becoming a serious force in the formulation of policy, and part of the solution to this dilemma in rural South Africa, affecting so many farmers. **B**



Never too old to follow a dream

By Leatitia Pienaar



He was born in Portugal and his family moved to Mozambique before settling in South Africa. When his father died he had to go and work and he got married at 21.

Six years ago he said to his wife he did not want to turn 75 without taking up studies in medicine.

His matric was too dated to enrol for medical studies, so he registered for a B.Sc. and was selected for the only spot for a senior student in 2006. In 2007 he enrolled for medicine and was part of the first five-year group. By 2009 the group had thinned out to a third of the original size.

To follow the dream, Paulo and his family had to relocate to Bloemfontein

and keep a business going while having his nose in his study books. For Paulo life is a balancing act to keep his duties as a student, husband, father and grandfather, and business man together. He is a dealer in gold coins and run investment portfolios, he is a keen gardener and renovator, a father to his son and daughter and his daughter's twins.

His son, Miguel (27), is studying Law at our university, and his wife Naomi, is also working at the UFS.

To be Dr Paulo is fine, but he has already set his eye on the next target, and that is to specialise in internal medicine.

We can all learn from Paulo. Live your dream.



Maybe you would like to take another look at the photograph. It is that of a man playing with his grandchildren. Right? But Paulo de Valdoleiros (50) is also final-year medical student at our Faculty of Health Sciences and probably the oldest student in the country doing his MB.,Ch.B.

Paulo was seven years old when he decided he wanted to become a medical doctor. However, his life took all kinds of twists and turns on a road further and further away from his dream.

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Personeel

Prof. Dingie is nie bang

Deur Margaret Linström



Die meeste gewone sterflinge spog met een, dalk twee, kersies op hul lewenskoek, maar prof. Dingie van Rensburg is een van daardie uitstaande mense wat 'n lewenskoek propvol bloedrooi kersies het. Dit kom 'n mens baie gou agter in jou gesprek met hom – maar lank voor dit besef jy dat hy 'n man met 'n fyn humorsin is, iemand wat nie bang is om vir homself te lag nie, 'n mens.

Prof. Dingie vertel met 'n glimlag wat net-net wil deurbreek dat hy reeds einde Mei vanjaar op 65 afgetree het, maar "nou sit ek nog hier". Die "hier" is in die Sentrum vir Gesondheidsstelselnavorsing en Ontwikkeling reg in die hart van Kopsiekampus waar hy 17 jaar lank direkteur was, en waar hy nou, in sy woorde "'n onbetaalde extraordinary professor" is.

Maar eers vertel hy oor sy kleintyd op Fauresmith. "Jy weet seker nie waar dit is nie," sê-vra hy. Vandaar is hy in 1964 Kopsies toe, "die jaar van die groot sneeu, die hele wêreld was wit!" Die jongste Van Rensburg het ingeskryf vir B.A. Admissie, maar volgens hom het hy "die pad byster geraak". Dit was ook in hierdie tyd dat hy sosiologie ontdek het – 'n vak waarvoor hy "baie lief is". As jy hom pols oor hoekom hy Admissie gelos het, sê hy driftig: "Ek is net vrek bly dat ek nie 'n dominee geword het nie."

Prof. Dingie skryf sy liefde vir sosiologie toe aan "'n dosent wat my geïnspireer het". Hy praat met groot lof van dié dosent, later ook vise-rektor, prof. Dawfré Roode, wat sy lewe lank vir hom 'n inspirasie was. Steeds op die onderwerp van

om vir homself te lag

sosiologie, gee prof. Dingie toe dat dit 'n moeilike vak is, maar dat dit vir 'n mens "insig in die samelewing gee". Dit was ook prof. Roode en prof. Renier Viljoen, destyds dekaan, wat hom gevra het om die sentrum – een van die grootste kersies op sy lewenskoek – te begin.

Hy vertel weer met 'n halwe glimlag dat hy "te veel moeilikheid by sosiologie gemaak het". As dosent, sê prof. Dingie, was hy veral lief daarvoor om Karl Marx te doseer, wat "bietjie radikaal was vir daai tyd".

Op sy kenmerkende reguit manier voeg hy by: "Ek verwag baie van mense. Ek verwag dat hulle moet hard werk, maar nie net hard werk nie, maar ook kwaliteit werk moet lewer." Maar, sê hy amper ter versagting, mense noem hom darem ook graag 'n werkolis, want hy is altyd besig, maar hy "hou nogal van die term werkolis".

En as jy na sy ellelange lys prestasies kyk, is dit duidelik dat 'n mens nie alles kon bereik sonder om 'n werkolis te wees nie. Vir sy grootse werk as mediese sosioloog het hy in April vanjaar waarskynlik die grootste, rooiste kersie bygevoeg toe 'n eredoktorsgraad deur die Universiteit van Antwerpen in België aan hom toegeken is. Die uitsonderlike prestasie is voor hom aan net twee ander Suid-Afrikaners gemaak – die een is Grondwethof-regter Albie Sachs en die ander oudstaatspresident Nelson Mandela. Om die prestasie nog meer merkwaardig te maak, het die Universiteit van Antwerpen in sy geskiedenis nog net drie eredoktorsgrade aan sosiaalwetenskaplikes toegeken, waarvan een aan niemand minder nie as prof. John Nash, wie se lewensverhaal in die rolprent *A Beautiful Mind* vertel word. Prof. Dingie beskryf die akkolade as dat dit hom "vergenoegd" gelaat het.

Maar hierdie soort werkywer moet seker getemper word deur iets minder veeleisend. So, wat doen die Prof is sy vryetyd, wil ek weet. En soos vele groot siele voor hom, sê hy: "Ek is baie lief vir lees, veral reisverhale." Onlangs het hy die bekende

reisskrywer Paul Theroux se boek *Ghost Train to the Eastern Star* verskriklik baie geniet. Wat sy gedagtes laat spring na sy ander groot liefde – reis. Hy sê sy vrou, Mariëtte, 'n oud-onderwyser, en sy middelkind, Elba, is ook so lief vir reis. Hulle drie was juis 'n ruk gelede in Turkye.

Vra jy hom wat hy nog graag wil doen, afgesien van reis – Peru wink reeds weer. Hy wil ook graag die boek wat hy en sy kollegas in 2004 gepubliseer het, *Health and health care in South Africa*, weer herskryf en wil met die beplanning en redigering daarvan help. Prof. Dingie is ooglopend trots op die boeke oor gesondheidsorg in Suid-Afrika wat hy sedert 1975 die lig laat sien het.

Hy vertel weer met 'n halwe glimlag dat hy "te veel moeilikheid by sosiologie gemaak het". As dosent, sê prof. Dingie, was hy veral lief daarvoor om Karl Marx te doseer, wat "bietjie radikaal was vir daai tyd".

'n Gesprek met hierdie deurwinterde Kovsie, wat 41 jaar van sy lewe aan die universiteit gewy het – plus vyf jaar as voltydse student – sou onvolledig wees sonder om hom te vra hoe hy voel oor ons toekoms.

"Ek is 'n lojaal, maar tog 'n groot kritikus van die UV," antwoord hy. Maar, voeg hy gou by, "ek is positief oor die UV se toekoms." Prof. Dingie sê hoewel die universiteit goed op dreef is met transformasie, moet daar nog baie gedoen word aan die transformasie van die personeelkorps. Dan sê die ouddosent amper as nagedagte dat hy tog 'n bietjie bekommerd is oor iets. Volgens hom het studente in sy jong dae na dosente opgekyk as ikone. Vandag, sê hy met 'n tikkie nostalgie, weet hy nie of dit meer so is nie. **B**

Sue's **fascination** with the **weather**



Prof. Sue Walker with the wet and dry bulb thermometer her parents gave her as a sixteenth birthday present. She has been fascinated by the weather for as long as she can remember.

Photo: Gerhard Louw

By Marleen Smith

She probably must have been the only teenager in the world who ever wanted a Stevenson screen and a wet and dry bulb thermometer for her sixteenth birthday.

Sue Walker's parents couldn't find the Stevenson screen (a shelter that protects meteorological instruments from precipitation and heat radiation), but did get their daughter the thermometer, to measure humidity.

"I've been interested in the weather ever since I can remember," laughs the 54-year-old Sue, who still treasures the sixteenth birthday present. "The rain, temperatures, everything... Sometimes it would be misty when we left for school, and when we got there, the mist would have been gone. That fascinated me," she says, still fascinated.

She suspects that this might be genetic. Her Irish

grandfather, Jack McCarthy, planted indigenous trees at Isipingo, years before the conservation of indigenous flora became an issue. "He has been a man ahead of his times."

Sue also shared her passion for the environment and weather with her parents. Her accountant dad, Ronald Walker, took daily readings of minimum and maximum temperatures on their plot at Gillitts, between Durban and Pietermaritzburg, and kept meticulous rainfall records. "It's all still about the numbers; recording them, computing them..." Sue explains an accountant's interest in meteorology.

The young Sue earned a Fulbright scholarship and a Ph.D. from the University of California. For many years she was probably the only woman in South Africa with a Ph.D. in agrometeorology. Today she is an internationally respected scientist – both as crop physiologist and agrometeorologist – professor and head of agrometeorology at the UFS's Department of Soil, Crop and Climate Sciences, a position she has held for the past twelve years. Among her many

brings **hope** to communities

accomplishments and awards, both in South Africa and abroad, is a C2-rating by the National Research Foundation (NRF).

What mostly distinguishes Sue, however, is not only her impressive academic record, but the way she has married social development with her scientific field of expertise. "Although I am a scientist, I'm also very interested in people."

Early in her career, years before small farmer development became a popular field, she pioneered projects such as community vegetable gardens and small-scale irrigation projects in the former homelands. This was long before it became fashionable to integrate the social science of development with the natural sciences.

She was working for the then national Department of Agriculture as an official in its Soil and Irrigation Research Institute. "It was before Mandela was released, and going into those communities was not exactly the fashionable thing to do," she laughs.

She would spend two weeks out of every month on the road at those projects, covering 5 000 km per month and traveling to places such as Mamelodi, Hoxane, an irrigation scheme on the Sabie River just outside the Kruger National Park, and Thulamahashe near Bushbuckridge.

She was doing real research in action, learning about whole farming systems, from the soil to the marketplace, and applying her meteorological knowledge to help those farmers grow better crops. "I learned that the farmer is the centre of the system, and that you had to analyse his or her available natural resources and teach them how to use it optimally."

Her going against, or rather outside, the main stream was not borne so much out of political awareness, but from a chosen personal mission "to feed the people". Early on in her career, before going to the United States, she was part of a research project to determine the irrigation requirements for wheat and soybeans while working for the national Department of Agriculture. This job included outreach programmes to irrigation farmers.

"Then I began to feel that my theme was to feed the people. I realised that you need to get climate

information to farmers, and that the weather was critical in feeding the people." One evening, on one of her countless visits to a development project, she realised that one of the women farmers she had met that day, had two cabbages instead of none the previous year, and that she had helped the woman accomplish that: "Then I could sleep at night."

By 1996, after spending almost twenty years in the Department of Agriculture, Sue became restless. Apart from frustration with the bureaucracy and limited opportunities for promotion, she had just turned 40, and felt it was time to move on. Prof. Jimmy de Jager, under whom Sue had originally obtained her B.Sc. from the University of Natal, was by then head of agrometeorology at the UFS. He offered her a job in Bloemfontein, and in 1998 she took over from him when he retired.

Ever since, she has pursued her mission to feed the people with equal passion. Her many Ph.D. students, working from Sannaspos near Bloemfontein to as far as Zambia, Ethiopia, Eritrea and the Sudan, interact with rural communities, providing them with agrometeorological services and using historical climate data to develop models that help farmers find the best agricultural practices and grow the crops best suited to their particular environments.

The students' services to these communities include, among others, regular tailor-made advisories on agricultural conditions, study group meetings, on-farm trials, and extension services.

A Zambian student, Durton Nanja, who works for his country's department of meteorology, is developing a system called participatory agrometeorology extension service, in which local communities' indigenous knowledge about the weather and climate is integrated with scientific knowledge.

The one thing she has learned over all these years, Sue says, is that any development project can be successful if the community is on board, feeling that it is their own.

She is still firmly optimistic about farmer development, even for communal areas. "I believe it can work, because I have seen how people change their agricultural practices," she says. "And because I believe in people." **B**

Praise for new book on Anglo-Boer War

The Anglo-Boer War (ABW) of 1899 to 1902 is the most devastating war that has thus far been fought in Southern Africa. While the war was still in progress, the first books about events at the war front were published, and soon postgraduate students also started to research aspects of the war. A new publication will guide you to these studies.

Prof. André Wessels, Chairperson of our Department of History, is a recognised authority on the ABW and has so far published extensively on the history of that war, including two books that were published in the United Kingdom, namely *Lord Roberts and the war in South Africa 1899-1902* (2000) and *Lord Kitchener and the war in South Africa 1899-1902* (2006). His latest book on the war of 1899 to 1902 is *A century of postgraduate Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) studies: Masters' and doctoral studies completed at universities in South Africa, in English-speaking countries and on the European Continent 1908-2008* (205 pages; SUN MeDIA, Bloemfontein).

This study provides students, historians, and other academics and scholars, as well as other researchers and anyone interested in the history of the ABW, with as comprehensive a list as possible of all postgraduate studies completed on any conceivable aspect of the war, as well as any other postgraduate studies that refer, to some extent, to the conflict. Prof. Wessels provides a brief background history with regard to the war, as well as a historiography of the war theses. He has identified 139 master's (M) and 84 doctoral (D) studies that focus exclusively on the war, as well as 125 M and 212 D studies that deal to some extent with the conflict.

The theses are analysed and interpreted, aspects of the ABW that have already been researched are identified and, where possible, fields that have not yet been researched are indicated. Lists of all 560 ABW theses that were completed during 1908 to 2008 are provided: firstly per country, including background information about each country's role with regard to the war; and then thematically, for example in terms of military events; civilians and the war; the role played by black people; peace efforts; as well as literature, the media and churches and the war. There are also seven appendices, as well as a comprehensive source list.

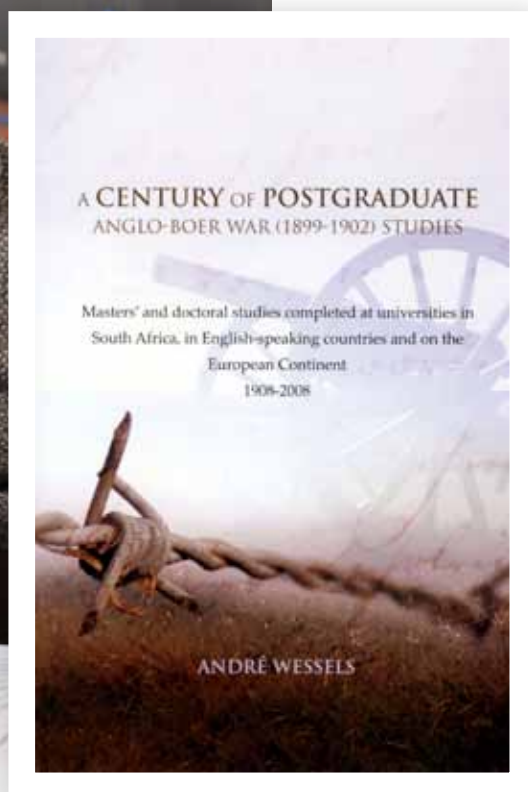
A century of postgraduate Anglo-Boer War (1899-1902) studies was subjected to a rigorous peer review process. Prof. Ian Beckett of the School of History, Rutherford College, University of Kent, Canterbury, in the United Kingdom describe the book as "an absolutely invaluable digest" of the wealth of postgraduate work available on the ABW and "there is no other work available that comes close to matching the extent of this book. The breadth is extraordinary, bearing witness to considerable work in order to track down anything relevant."

Prof. Fransjohan Pretorius of the Department of Historical and Heritage Studies at the University of Pretoria says: "This is a major contribution to the historiography of the Anglo-Boer War. As a research output, this book is a very useful contribution."

At a time when the 110th anniversary of the Anglo-Boer War is commemorated, it is hoped that this publication by André Wessels will contribute towards research with regard to a war that affected all the inhabitants, and of all cultures, in the war zone, and which left a legacy of much trauma and bitterness. The history of this conflict forms part of the colonial history that is shared by all South Africans. **B**



Photos: Stephen Collett.



Karen maak ekonomie so **maklik** **soos**



Deur Vida Booysen

As dr. Karen Thomas, senior lektor in ons Departement Ekonomie, oor haar werk praat, is die entoesiasme aansteeklik. Die idees en nuwe planne borrel vinniger uit as wat 'n rekenaar 'n rits statistiek oor die bruto binnelandse produk kan uitspoeg.

Karen is bekend as 'n dosent wat grense verskuif. Sy laat nóg haarself nóg haar studente toe om in 'n gemaksonne te verval. Elke jaar vernuwe sy haar lesings en aanbiedingsmetodes "want anders raak ek verveeld".

Daar word geëksperimenteer met al wat 'n tegnologiese platform is om kennis oor te dra – van selfone tot sosiale netwerke. Gooi daarby 'n goeie skoot dramatiese talent en 'n bereidwilligheid om met haarself die gek te skeer as dit help om abstrakte ekonomiese begrippe oor te dra, en jy het 'n resep vir 'n lewendige, ongewone les.

"Ons speel almal maar eintlik 'n rol. 'n Dosent meer as enigeen. 'n Dosent is 'n akteur wat voor die klas moet toneelspeel. As ek vir my student leer oor inflasie, gebruik ek ons huisgesin as 'n voorbeeld. As jy inflasie meet, moet dit 'n standvastige meting wees. Wel, my man gaan elke eerste Saterdag van die maand na dieselfde winkel toe en dus is ons kruideniersmandjie 'n goeie maatstaf. Nou dik ek dit verskriklik aan. Ek vertel vir hulle hoe vervelig is my man en dat ons al vir die afgelope tien jaar dieselfde geur toiletsproei gebruik. Dan dink hulle dis verskriklik snaaks. 'n Dosent praat mos nie oor toiletsproei in die klas nie. Maar die belangrike ding is dat hulle onthou waaroor die begrip gaan."

Vra 'n mens vir Karen hoekom sy ekonomie as beroepsveld gekies het, kom die verrassende antwoord dat haar vernaamste fokus nie ekonomie is nie, maar wel onderwys.

"Toevallig is ekonomie die voertuig waarmee ek my eerste liefde kan uiteleef, naamlik om jong mense te help ontwikkel. Ekonomie is 'n baie abstrakte vak en ons studente sukkel soms geweldig. Dit verstaan ek goed want ek het as student net so baie daarmee gesukkel. Vandag is dit my roeping om hulle al in die eerste jaar te vang



Foto: Rian Horn

Staff

die week se belangrikste ekonomiese nuus. Karen vertel dat dit hulle dwing om kennis te integreer en die gebeure op hul eie leëwêreld van toepassing te maak.

Sy praat met groot waardering oor die ondersteuning vir haar innovasie wat sy van haar departementshoof, prof. Philippe Burger, asook prof. Tienie Crous, Dekaan van ons Fakulteit Ekonomiese en Bestuurswetenskappe, kry. "Ek werk gelukkig vir mense wat my al die vryheid toelaat om te eksperimenteer – mits ek nie te veel geld mors nie en my metodes iets nuuts skep waarby ons almal kan baat vind."

Haar spesifieke belangstellingsveld in haar vakgebied is ontwikkelingseconomie en die rol wat dit speel om Suid-Afrika se armoede-probleme op te los. Dit is vir haar van deurslaggewende belang dat studente bewus moet wees van die uitdagings wat armoede, veral op die platteland, aan hul landgenote stel. Vanjaar word 'n kompetisie vir die tweede agtereenvolgende jaar aangebied waar haar derdejaars in groepe met praktiese planne vir armoedeverligting vorendag moet kom. Verteenwoordigers van verskillende geslagte en rasse word doelbewus in een groep saam gegooi.

en hul sienswyse oor die vak te verander. Dit is vir my so belonend as studente later kom vertel dat ek hul belangstelling in die vak wakker gemaak het."

Sy verduidelik dat tegnologie vandag 'n integrale deel van jongmense se leëwêreld is en dus met vrug in hul leerproses ingespan kan word. "Ons studente kan geweldig baie dinge gelyk doen en hulle kry stimulerings vanuit soveel bronne. Dit beteken egter dat nuwe inligting beter in kort, verteerbare brokke ingeneem word. Op hierdie manier kan jy eintlik 'n magdom inligting oordra maar dan moet jy hulle baie subtiel lei om dieper te delf – want daar lê die leemte.

"Ek probeer hulle taal praat – selfone, Mxit, en ek is 'n groot aanhanger van Facebook. Hierdie tegnologie help om afwisseling in die klaskamer te skep. Ek sal byvoorbeeld 'n video-insetsel van tien minute speel, daarna vrae vra wat uit die inligting voortspruit en studente moet dan die antwoorde op hul selfone intik en na my rekenaar stuur. Dan kan ons vinnig 'n grafiek trek om te kyk wie het almal reg geantwoord."

Haar MBA-studente moes al die afgelope twee jaar as deel van hul kursus elke Vrydag 'n blog skryf oor

"Dit is nodig dat studente met mekaar moet praat om ontslae te raak van vooroordele en om hul eie denke oor kwessies soos byvoorbeeld swart ekonomiese bemagtiging te verruim."

Vanjaar se kompetisie is interkurrikulêr en die navorsingskluster oor armoedeverligting en volhoubare ontwikkeling onder leiding van prof. Doreen Atkinson help om studente te mentor.

Die onderhoud staan einde se kant toe en die bekers waarin Karen vir ons rooibos tee gemaak het, is al lankal koud toe ek vra wat sy graag doen as sy nie energie aan haar werk bestee nie. Vir die eerste keer raak dit vir 'n oomblik stil in haar warm, gesellige sitkamer. En toe vertel sy sag dat sy graag wolke skilder. Met olie verf, want dit skyn deur en jy kan nuanses van lig en donker met kwas, paletmes en selfs vingers skep.

"Die lekker ding is: jy kan nie verveeld raak nie, daar is te veel maniere waarop jy kan eksperimenteer." **B**

Shaun de Freitas - **toegewyd** en **vrydenkend**

Deur Cindé Greyling

"Hoe verduidelik jy dat jou gunstelingkleur groen is?" wonder prof. Shaun de Freitas hardop oor sy passie vir sy werk. "Waar ek myself ook al bevind, is ek óf besig om te lees, óf besig om te skryf. Dis nie iets wat ek besluit nie."

Prof. De Freitas is 'n departementshoof aan ons Fakulteit Regsgeleerdheid waar hy omsien na Internasionale Humanitêre Reg, Menseregte, Kerk- en Staat- en Regsbestudering. Die akademiese deel van sy lewe is omtrent 'n handvol. Jy kan nie help om te wonder nie: Wie is die man agter die professor?

"Jy moet dalk eerder my vrou en vriende vra! Ek is seker daarvan hulle sal 'n eerliker en meer objektiewe antwoord kan gee. O, ja, en beslis my ma ook!" ontduik hy 'n beskrywing van homself op 'n manier wat geen twyfel laat nie. Eers heelwat later besef jy hy het jou vir 'n ses geslaan! Waar moet jy nou sy ma in die hande kry? Hy't hom netjies uit dié een uitgewurm.

Hy verklap darem dat hy wel vrye tyd het: "Ek geniet dit om tyd by die huis deur te bring. Sportkyk is hoog op my lys van lekker dinge om te doen, en straatkrieket! Dis nou iets wat ek geniet om te speel. En so nou en dan 'n lekker braai saam met vriende en familie."

Wat maak die wêreld 'n spesiale plek? "Sjoe, daar is soveel goed. Maar alles kom seker neer op wat jy glo, waar alles begin het en hoekom jy hier op aarde is. Die ruimtevaarders William Anders en Frank Borman het vir my alles so mooi saamgevat: *We are now approaching lunar sunrise and, for all the people back on Earth, the crew of Apollo 8 has a message that we would like to send to you. In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth... And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters he called Seas: and God saw that it was good.* "As God kan sien

dat die wêreld 'n spesiale plek is, behoort ons ook."

Dis gou duidelik dat Shaun 'n diep bewustheid van God het, want wanneer jy wil weet wat is die boek of navorsingstuk wat die grootste indruk op hom gemaak het, antwoord hy sonder om te aarsel: "Die Bybel, en duisende mense sal saam met my stem."

Maar vir 'n man vir wie lees soos asemhaal is, is daar darem 'n tweede en derde opsie ook! "Naas die Bybel is daar eintlik so baie uitstaande werke. Dit is die ding met akademië, daar is soveel groot geeste daar buite... dit maak 'n ou eintlik nederig. Ongelukkig leef ons in 'n wêreld wat daarvan hou om dinge te gradeer volgens topprestasie.

"Aan die een kant kan dit 'n goeie ding wees, maar aan die ander kant kan dit jou blind maak vir al die talente wat daar in die wêreld is. Ek dink nie ons waardeur ander se vermoëns genoeg nie. Maar as ek nou een móét uitsonder, sal ek moontlik CS Lewis se *A grief observed* kies. Of Sint Augustinus se *City of God*. Miskien ook..."

Wat wil jy graag vir die wêreld nalaat? "Ek is seker daar kan nog baie werk gedoen word om die verhouding tussen geloof en die reg te verbeter, of dit nou in die veld van opvoeding, die professie self, die algemene publiek of die korporatiewe wêreld is. Geloof is so 'n onlosmaaklike deel van ons as mense, maar vir die een of ander rede is ons skugter om daaraan erkenning te gee, veral wanneer ons in die openbare en internasionale arena daarmee gekonfronteer word. Ek is 'n vurige



"Ek is seker daar kan nog baie werk gedoen word om die verhouding tussen geloof en die reg te verbeter, of dit nou in die veld van opvoeding, die professie self, die algemene publiek of die korporatiewe wêreld is. Geloof is so 'n onlosmaaklike deel van ons as mense, maar vir die een of ander rede is ons skugter om daaraan erkenning te gee, veral wanneer ons in die openbare en internasionale arena daarmee gekonfronteer word."

Shaun de Freitas.

Foto: Nathan Guinn.

ondersteuner van die idee dat 'die reg' nie as wetenskap geïsoleer moet wees nie."

Soos byvoorbeeld die navorsing oor aborsies waarmee jy nou besig is? "Ja, ek delf so bietjie in die probleem van dokters wat weier om aborsies uit te voer. Daar was hierdie dokter wat sy werk verloor het omdat hy nie aborsies wou doen nie, en dít nadat hy jare by die spesifieke hospitaal gewerk het.

"Gelukkig het hy na 'n onlangse interne verhoor by die hospitaal vergoeding gekry en is hy heraangestel. Ons het nog heelwat meer filosofiese en konstitusionele duidelikheid oor die konteks van die reg op godsdienstvryheid in die Suid-Afrika nodig. Ek is oortuig daarvan dat dit in die toekoms ook al hoe belangriker gaan raak.

"Deur byvoorbeeld meer bedagsaam te wees teenoor dokters wat 'n gewetensbeswaar teen aborsies het, sal Suid-Afrika nog 'n tree nader daaraan wees om alle burgers se belange in ag te neem – solank dit natuurlik binne die grondwetlike waardes en beginsels val."

Hoe wil jy onthou word as professor? "Vir my vakkundigheid. En dat ek aan die verwagtinge wat saam met die titel 'professor' gaan, kon voldoen."

En as pa? "Ek dink enige ouer wil graag suksesvol wees. In daardie lig gesien, is opvoeding vir my 'n prioriteit. Om 'n ouer te wees, is een van die groot vreugdes in my lewe. Dit gee my ook wonderlike insigte en ervarings – iets wat boeke nie opsigself vir 'n mens kan gee nie. Dan is daar ook die prioriteit om 'n liefde vir lees in my kind te kweek." **B**



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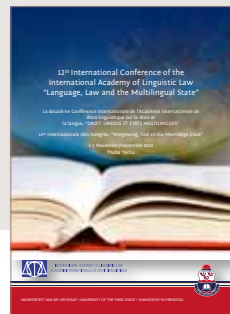
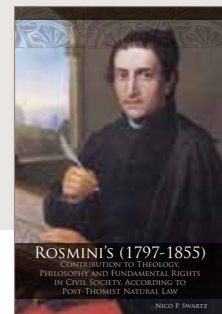
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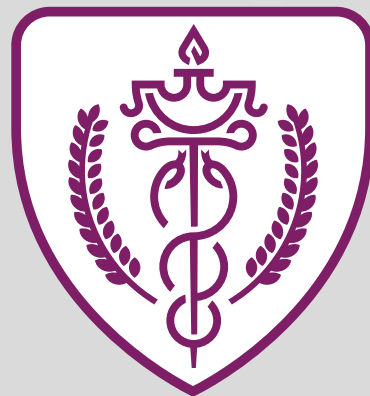
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HEALTH SCIENCES
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Students

After the disappointment of what had happened at the Olympic Games in 2008, there was somewhat of a reward for the Kovsies sprinter Thuso Mpuang when he, as a member of the South African men's relay team (4 x 100 m), bagged a gold medal at the African championships in Nairobi.

Fastest 200m sprinter resides at Kovsies

By Ruan Bruwer

At the 2008 Olympics Mpuang also ran for South Africa in the relay, but the team was disqualified in the semi-finals when he and fellow Kovsie Kagisho Kumbane dropped the stick and couldn't continue. Mpuang describes that as his biggest disappointment in his athletics career.

"Ja, it was a nice feeling to win in Nairobi again, as we were the defending champs from 2008. However, the Beijing cloud cleared a long time ago and I have learned a lot from it," he said. Since then Mpuang (many write his name as "2so") has once more proved that he is the fastest 200 m sprinter in the country.

Earlier in the year he retained his men's 200 m title for a second year running at the South African Track and Field Championships in Durban. He finished in 20,57 sec.

However, at the University Sports South Africa (USSA) Athletics Championships in Potchefstroom in April this year, Mpuang lost the 200 m title he earned in the previous two years to Simon Makgakwe. Makgakwe was his team mate in the 4 x 100 m relay in Nairobi. Mpuang had to settle for bronze in both the 200 m and 100 m. Although Mpuang only ran 100th of a second (20,54) slower than his personal best (20,53 in 2008) in his favourite 200 m event, it was only good enough for a third position.

Along with fellow Kovsies Kumbane, Ashford Motsau and Nelis de Kock, the four of them earned the silver medal in the men's 4x100 m relay.

Although he would have liked to qualify for the Commonwealth Games in India, he had his sights set on performing well for the African team that participated in Split City, Croatia, at the Athletics World Cup. "Sascoc (South Africa's Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee) had quite tough standards for the Commonwealth Games and I didn't meet those standards."

The 25-year-old Mafikeng-born stormed onto the scene back in 2008 and Mpuang will probably admit that two years down the line he hasn't quite



**Thuso Mpuang
and his coach,
Ans Botha.**

matched the promise he had showed then.

He was “discovered” early in that year at the South African Senior Championships in Stellenbosch where he surprised many by finishing second in the 200 m. At the South African Students meeting in March 2008, Mpuang bagged a gold medal and was named the best men’s athlete. His victory of 20,57 sec. was an Olympic A-qualifying time. Two months later at the African Championships in Ethiopia he claimed the title as African champion in the same item.

Since then he not only went to the Olympic Games, but also represented South Africa at the World Athletics Championships in Berlin in 2009 where he competed in the men’s relay team (4 x 100 m) as well as the 200 m. At last year’s Senior National Championships in Stellenbosch he not only won the 200 m, but also achieved his personal best time (10,27 sec.) in the 100 m event, finishing second.

According to Mpuang, he and his coach, Ans Botha, form a very strong partnership. “She probably knows me better than I do. Ans once told me you must try and enjoy everything you do and success will

only come as a bonus. That advice stuck with me.

“Other lessons I’ve learned along the way is that training alone won’t get you where you need to be and you have to be mentally fit to achieve success,” he added. He describes his patience and the ability to motivate himself to work hard as his strong points as an athlete.

Any weak points? “An injury setback makes me feel as if I have just been dumped, that’s how weak emotionally I can be!”

So, what’s his biggest highlight of his athletics career? Going to the 2008 Beijing Olympics. It was out of this world! I really wouldn’t mind doing it again,” Mpuang, a final-year student, said. **B**



Sidwell Monyane, heel voor, in sy element voor die rekenaar. – Foto: Stephen Collett.

'n Glimlag wat jou oorrompel

Deur Leatitia Pienaar

'n Mens kan nie anders as om weer en weer te kyk wanneer jy Sidwell Monyane (22) raakloop nie. En dan is dit nie oor die tone wat die rekenaar se sleutelbord en Sidwell se eie lewe so behendig beheer nie, maar sy glimlag.

Dit is 'n glimlag wat 'n mens eenvoudig oorrompel. Toe ek die foto die eerste keer sien, moes ek eenvoudig meer van hom weet.

Sidwell het 'n breinbesering met geboorte opgedoen wat sy bewegings aantas. Hy het geen beheer oor sy hande nie en tik en doen die meeste goed met sy voete. 'n Persoonlike assistent help om die daaglikse take makliker te maak en help hom om van die studentehuis by die klasse te kom en weer terug.

Sidwell het al deeglik ervaar hoe maklik mense teen die uiterlike vaskyk. 'n Skool in Bloemfontein wou hom nie as leerder aanvaar nie, en het dit na baie oorreding tog gedoen. Hy het hulle beloon deur as die dux-leerling aangewys te word.

Hy het met 'n beurs van die Vrystaatse premier 'n oorbruggingskursus by die UV voltooi en daarna met sy studies in B.Com. IT voortgegaan. "Ek is mal oor rekenaars. Ek kan heeldag voor 'n rekenaar sit." Hy het sy kursus in 2010 verander en beplan 'n loopbaan wat kan help om die lewe vir sy ma, Paulina, makliker te maak. Sy was 'n steunpilaar deur die jare en het om aangemoedig aan te hou en nie moed op te gee nie.

Studies en rekenaars is darem nie al waarin hy

belangstel nie. Sidwell het sy oog op die Olimpiese Spele van 2012. Hy het op skool al sy vaardigheid met boccia, 'n sport soos rolbal wat met 'n sagte bal gespeel word, getoon. Hy kan dit met sy voet speel en is een van die topspelers in die Nasionale Paralimpiese span vir persone met erge gestremdhede.

Hetsie Viets van ons Eenheid vir Persone met Gestremdhede ken Sidwell al van die dae toe sy as fisioterapeut by 'n skool in Mangaung gewerk het. Sy sê hy is ongelooflik vriendelik. Hy lag altyd en is 'n inspirasie vir almal. Hy is ongelooflik hardwerkend.

Hy het baie struikelblokke oorkom en sy eie stryd gehad teen mense se vooroordeel. Ondanks alles bly die glimlag. Maar daar is daardie een ding wat bly vassteek. Hy sal graag sy pa, wat hulle verlaat het, wil ontmoet. "Dit was moeilik om sonder 'n pa groot te word en in een stadium was dit moeilik om dit te aanvaar, maar ek vergewe hom," sê Sidwell.

Vir Sidwell is dit belangrik dat 'n mens alles doen asof dit jou laaste dag is. En dan sy groot versoek: "Asseblief, asseblief mense, aanvaar ons. As jou liggaam nie werk nie, beteken dit nie dat jou brein nie werk nie."

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ALUMNI

Alumni

Bultfontein, Bloemfontein, Barcelona –

Mnr. Suid-Afrika-finalis, kritiese denker en ook geestelike leier. Hy is 'n man wat voluit leef. Hy is Johan Beukes, oud-Kovsie en tans geestelike leier by die Mosaïek-gemeente in Fairland, Johannesburg. Johan leef voluit vir God en om ander mense te help, meestal leiers; om hulle geestelike potensiaal te ontwikkel en om deur hulle menswees 'n positiewe verskil in die wêreld te maak.

Leonie Bolleurs het hom 'n paar vrae gevra.

Hoekom het jy besluit om teologie te studeer?

Dit is altyd 'n baie moeilike vraag om te antwoord, want dit is eerder asof die teologie my gekies het. Toe ek ongeveer tien jaar was, het ek besef dat Jesus in my lewe teenwoordig was en ek het van toe af net "gewee" dat ek my lewe in en met liefde wil leef. Later het predikantwees vir my gelyk na 'n manier om dit uit te leef.

Ek het 'n paar redes gehad om Kovsies my alma mater te maak. Buiten dat die UV naby my ouerhuis in Bultfontein is, het my ma daar gestudeer en het ek ook baie positiewe dinge van Kovsies gehoor.

Johan het sy M.Div-graad in Teologie by ons universiteit voltooi. Later het hy ook sy honneurs in Bedryfsielkunde by die Noordwes-Universiteit (NU) verwerf en is as 'n psigometris by die Raad vir Gesondheidsberoepes van Suid-Afrika (HPCSA) geakkrediteer. Hy het later sy M.Phil by die Universiteit van Johannesburg (UJ) in Persoonlike en Professionele Leierskap voltooi. Die VIP Coaching Instituut, wat by die NU geakkrediteer is, het hom ook as 'n gekwalifiseerde Life and Business Coach erken. Tans is hy besig met 'n doktorsgraad in Opvoedkundige Sielkunde by UJ.

Wat was van jou hoogtepunte by Kovsies?

Ek het my stunning vrou, Huibreth, in die Kovsie-gym ontmoet! Daar was ook baie ander hoogtepunte soos Sêr, die eerstejaarsoriënteringsweek met die vroeg tot laat inters, intervarsity, Vrydag-aande se rugby, laataandkoffies, staptoere, fietstoere, Woensdagaande se lofprysings by die Studentegemeente; kougomkampe en die voorreg om te kan studeer! Ook om studenteleraar by Kovsies te wees!

Hoe het jou opleiding hier jou as leraar voorberei?

Die teologiese studie by Kovsies het my baie gehelp om krities te dink! Ek het geleer om met respek na ander mense se sienings en oortuigings te luister. Die persoonlike kontak en gesprekke met professore was van groot waarde. Dit het my ook 'n bril gegee waardeur ek na my verdere studies en die lewe kon kyk.

Wat is die lekkerste daarvan om 'n geestelike leier te wees?

Om te luister – na God, mense en die wêreld rondom jou, om die lewe diep saam met ander mense te deel.

Wat behels jou werk?

Ek begelei mense (veral leiers) om hulle godgegewe potensiaal te ontwikkel en om deur hulle menswees 'n positiewe verskil in die wêreld te maak. Soms het ek ook die voorreg om saam met mense te ervaar hoe Christus vir hulle 'n werklikheid word.

Wat is die raad wat jy aan jongmense kan gee oor transformasie en versoening?

Ek verkies om binne konteks vir jong Suid-Afrikaners met 'n volgende stap in versoening te help. Raad wat al vir my van waarde was, is om mense só te hanteer soos jy gehanteer wil word. Reik ook eerste uit. Moenie stereotipeer nie, wees gereed om deur ander verras te word. Elke mens is 'n misterie. Dit is 'n voorreg om deel van Suid-Afrika te wees en 'n bydra te kan lewer.

Wie is vir jou 'n voorbeeld van 'n goeie leier?

Alhoewel ek hom nog glad nie ontmoet het nie, 'n mens soos prof. Jonathan Jansen, die UV se Rektor. Hy is passievol oor wat hy doen en het ook moed. Dan ook Johan Geyser (Mosaïek-kerk). Eienskappe wat uitstaan, is sy nederigheid. Hy het ook goeie verhoudings met mense, het moed, is outentiek en wys.

Vertel ons meer van jou mnr. SA-finalis-ondervinding.

Wat 'n ongelooflike voorreg om onder die twaalf top- Suid-Afrikaanse manne te tel en om deel te word van die mnr. Suid-Afrika-gemeenskap. Die kompetisie was een manier om deur my menswees 'n positiewe verskil te maak, veral in 2010. Ek was onder andere by 'n huis vir mense met spesiale behoeftes betrokke. Dit was 'n groot uitdaging en ek moes baie van myself gee.

Jou betrokkenheid as finalis of semi-finalis – vloei daar boodskappe daaruit waaruit jy en ander kan leer?

Die volgende woorde van John

ons Mnr SA-finalis oor sy lewensreis

Heider het nogal vir my baie beteken tydens die kompetisie gehad: "The leader teaches more through being than through doing. The quality of one's silence conveys more than long speeches." Wees met wysheid getrou aan jouself; dit is die beste wat jy vir jouself en almal rondom jou kan doen.

Wie is Johan Beukes? Dit is vir my belangrik om 'n sinvolle lewe met my wonderlike vrou, Huibreth, te deel. Ek glo ook dat dit belangrik is om as mens aan te hou om te groei, 'n diep verhouding met God en met mense te hê en om passievol en met integriteit te leef. Self word ek geïnspireer deur mense wat passievol en met betekenis leef. Goeie boeke soos die Bybel, boeke oor leierskap, lewensafrigting en positiewe sielkunde, asook mense se stories inspireer my.

Ek is ook bevoorreg om 'n betekenisvolle lewe te leef. Die volgende uit Mitch Albom se boek, *Tuesdays with Morrie*, het my aangeraak:

"Why do people say, 'Oh, if I were young again.' You never hear people say, 'I wish I were sixty-five.' He smiled.

"You know what that reflects? Unsatisfied lives. Lives that haven't found meaning. Because if you've found meaning in your life, you don't want to go back.

"You want to go forward. You want to see more, do more. You can't wait until sixty-five."

Op 'n ligter noot. Hoe ontspan jy? Dit is moeilik, want ek hou van werk. Maar met oefening soos muurbal, gym en raakrugby ontspan ek. Dit is ook lekker om tyd in die natuur deur te bring en ek hou van fliks met verrassende storielyne, geurige kos, sterk vars koffie en swaar wyn. Verder ontspan ek ook lekker met 'n tydskrif of 'n goeie inspirerende boek. Ek lewer ook gereeld bydraes vir verskeie tydskrifte.

Dit is kortliks die lewe en oortuigings van Johan Beukes, ons boytjie van Bultfontein en later Bloemfontein, wat selfs op 'n tyd 'n draai in Barcelona gaan maak het. Sy lewensreis het aan hom nie net die geleentheid gebied om 'n groot deel van die wêreld te sien nie, maar ook om 'n positiewe verskil te maak in die lewens van mense met wie hy in aanraking gekom het, of dit nou leiers in sy gemeenskap is en of dit die inwoners van Ons Huis, 'n tehuis vir gestremdes in Pretoria, is. "Ek weet nie hoe groot is die verskil nie, maar dit is my manier om waarde toe te voeg tot ander se lewens," sê Johan. **B**

Johan Beukes



Foto: Tinbox Photography

Kovsie-bloed **loop dik** **deur are** van ouma Trudie se familie

Deur Lize du Plessis

Dit is in enige ouer se aard om groot te droom vir sy of haar kinders. Ons wil hulle aanmoedig, saam met hulle aan 'n toekoms werk en uiteindelik sien hoe hulle sukses behaal.

Dit is egter nie in eniger ouer se aard om daardie ekstra myl op growwe klipies met kaalvoete te loop nie. Een ouer wat bereid was om hard te werk vir haar kinders, is Trudie Kritzinger. Indien sy reeds in jou hart gekruip het, ken jy haar waarskynlik as ouma Trudie. Hierdie ma het altyd die beste van haar kinders verwag en alles in haar vermoë gedoen om te verseker dat hulle haar nooit teleurstel nie.

Ouma Trudie, wat deesdae in Klerksdorp woon, het 'n baie hegte band met ons universiteit. Dit is immers by Kovsies waar vier van haar sewe kinders hul MB., Ch.B.-studies voltooi het. Verder het sewe van haar 32 kleinkinders, wat 'n ongelooflike vier aangetroude kleinkinders en twee agterkleinkinders insluit, ook 'n verbintenis met die UV.

Ouma Trudie se man, Danie, is in 1972 op 'n baie jong ouderdom oorlede. Sy moes dadelik as beide moeder én vader van hul kinders – waarvan die oudste in daardie stadium in std. 7 en die jongste in sub. B was, instaan. Ná oom Danie se dood, het ouma Trudie en haar gesin na Potchefstroom verhuis. Die sewe kinders

het elkeen aan die Hoërskool Gimnasium in Potchefstroom gematrikuleer. Ouma Trudie het haar kinders aangemoedig om altyd hul beste te lewer, aangesien elke kind die geleentheid gehad het om na 'n universiteit te gaan om verder te studeer. "Ons ma het dit as haar ereplig beskou om hierdie geleenthede vir die kinders te skep," sê Andries, ouma Trudie se oudste.

Andries vertel hoe sy ma vir langer as 20 jaar as bedryfsverpleegkundige by die destydse Triomf Kunsmismaatskappy gewerk het. Vier van haar sewe kinders het vanuit hul ouerhuis studeer. Die oudste drie, Andries, Nico en Marlian, asook die tweedjongste, Koos, het hul grade aan die destydse Potchefstroomse Universiteit vir Christelike Hoër Onderwys (nou Noord-Wes Universiteit) behaal.

Ouma Trudie se enigste dogter, Marlian, het later 'n nagraadse kwalifikasie in Opvoedkunde behaal. Andries, Nico en Koos het hul studies aan die Universiteit van Pretoria se Fakulteit Teologie voortgesit.

Andries en Koos het later albei doktorsgrade in onderskeidelik teologie en lettere verwerf. In hierdie tydperk het van die ander seuns, Danie, Deodat en Sarel, almal hul studies by Kovsies begin. Nico het hom later by hulle aangesluit en ook sy studies in MB., Ch.B. voltooi. Vandag is hy 'n algemene praktisyn én 'n geordende leraar wat as tentmaker aan die NG-gemeente in Klerksdorp-Oos verbonde is.

Intussen het Danie, Deodat en Sarel al drie nagraadse kwalifikasies in hul onderskeie vakrigtings verwerf.

Koos is vandag aan die skool van Antiekie Tale aan die UP verbonde, terwyl Andries, Nico, Deodat en Sarel almal in die groter Klerksdorp-omgewing woon. Danie is 'n algemene praktisyn op Bethlehem. Marlian woon vandag saam met haar gesin in Bloemfontein.

Heelwat van ouma Trudie se kleinkinders is trotse Kovsies – hetsy dit huidiglik of voormalig is. Hul studierigtings wissel van Finansiële Wiskunde tot Fisioterapie.

Op die ryp ouderdom van 84 jaar is Ouma Trudie steeds lief daarvoor om koerant te lees en na die radionuus te luister. Toe prof. Jonathan Jansen, ons Vise-kansellier en Rektor van die UV, destyds 'n werknemer aan die UP was, het ouma Trudie dit geniet om sy rubriek in nasionale koerante te lees. Sy het hom gereeld beskryf as 'n "eerlike man wat weet waarheen hy wil".

Toe dit bekend word dat hy as die nuwe vise-kansellier en rektor van ons UV aangestel is, het sy opgewonde vertel dat sy die man "ken". Sy het vir Trudie, een van haar kleindogters wat aan die UV studeer, gevra om vir prof. Jansen te vertel hoeveel respek sy vir hom het. Trudie het dit gedoen en ook aan prof. Jansen genoem haar ouma is in die hospitaal.

Prof. Jansen het besef hoeveel hy vir die dame kan beteken en het haar in die hospitaal verras met 'n telefoonoproep. Haar verbasing was groot en haar respek selfs groter.

Vroeër vanjaar, toe prof. Jansen en van sy kollegas Noordwes besoek het, het hulle vir ouma Trudie gaan kuier waar sy in Klerksdorp by

haar jongste seun, Sarel, en sy vrou, Judy, woon. Toe hulle in die omgewing was, het prof. Jansen daarop aangedring dat hulle 'n draai by haar gaan maak.

Ouma Trudie kon nie uitgepraat raak ook die besoek nie. "Hy's 'n gróót man, vriendelik en plat op die aarde," het sy, wat nie eers vyf voet lank is nie, vertel. "Ek hou nou nóg meer van hom."

Ouers het inderdaad die mag om hul kinders se drome te help verwesenlik. Wat ons egter soms vergeet, is dat ouers ook opkyk na ander mense. Prof. Jansen het dit onthou, raakgesien en daarop reageer. Dit is regtig so dat ons nooit te oud is om opgewonde te raak oor die klein dingetjies in die lewe nie. 



Baie jare lê tussen die regter en die joolkoningin

Deur Elsabé Pepler

Nes 'n beeldskone sprokiesprinses was sy in 1972, met 'n vleklose vel, blouselblou oë, en die swartste hare. Nogal met 'n enorme regte kroon en 'n septer in haar hande...

Op pad na die Kaapse Hooggeregshof herroep ek helder 'n Saterdagoggend in Bloemfontein, ten spyte van verskeie dekades tussenin. Elize Horak was die joolkoningin op die wenvlot en het opgewonde vir die massas Vrystaters langs die strate gewaai. Sy was Kovsies se eie Koningin van Harte.

Sy kan sedert April 2010 die titel regter Elize Steyn by die lang lys van prestasies voeg. 'n Baanbrekervrou, selfs in die 21ste eeu. Sy is steeds mooi met genoeg lagplooitjies. Slim en belese, bekwaam, getroud met Theuns Steyn ('n vierde-geslag nasaat van president Steyn), geseën met intelligente en suksesvolle kinders. Haar kantoor is groot en gedemp, met 'n ontsagwekkende lessenaar, rakke vol belangrike boeke en 'n dik tapyt.

Ons maak die Kovsie-koppeling. "Ekself was nog nooit spyt dat ek juis by Kovsies in die regte geswot het nie. Ek glo dit bly tot vandag toe een van die beste regs fakulteite in die land. My jonger sus, Susette, is 'n doktor in Opvoedkunde by Kovsies en ek is maar te bewus van die uitdagings waarmee hulle te doen het."

So, was sy met die goue lepel in die mond gebore? "Nee, die meeste daarvan was harde werk, deursettingsvermoë, toewyding. Ek

wás seker ook in talle opsigte gelukkig en begenadig, soos dat ek my man van meer as drie dekades, Theuns, in die eerste twee weke van my universiteitslewe ontmoet het. Hy was 'n bossiekop-eerstejaar met 'n Beetletjie, en het vir my House of the Rising Sun op sy kitaar gespeel. Ek waardeer ook my drie pragtige en intelligente kinders, Bonnie, Martine en Theunie – wat al drie in 'n stadium in die regte gestudeer het. Bonnie (28) is 'n prokureur sommer hier naby my. Martine (26), wat later in Frans gespesialiseer het, werk vir 'n vertaalmaatskappy in Parys, Frankryk. Eerstejaar Theunie swot ook regte by Maties, maar eintlik sien hy homself as 'n rock-ster."

Elize het vir 30 jaar suksesvol as advokaat gepraktiseer nadat sy geleidelik die patriargale regswêreld verower het. Regters en kollegas het haar begin aanpor om haarself as regter beskikbaar te stel, wat sy na deeglike besinning gedoen het – en nou sit sy in hierdie statige ou hofgebou; een van 'n klein groepie vroueregters in Suid-Afrika. Sy hoop om dit te doen tot sy 70 word.

Ek wonder hoeveel jong vroue in haar dae regte geswot het. Daar was baie min, onthou sy. Vandag lyk die prentjie totaal anders. Die meerderheid studente wat oraloer regte swot, is meisies. Die regswêreld is lankal nie meer die manlike bastion van ouds nie. Dis ook nie so romanties soos in TV-reekse nie. "Toe ek begin praktiseer het, was dit asof die mans nie altyd besef het hier is 'n vrou tussen hulle nie, en baie van die gesprekke was manlik georiënteerd!"

Sy het hard gewerk en sonder die hulp van allerlei fairy godmothers die hoogste sport bereik. Sy sê dit beskeie, maar haar gesigsuitdrukking vertel dat



Regter Elize Steyn.

dit dikwels 'n alleen en opdraande pad was in dié destyds oorwegende manlike beroep.

Waarmee hou sy haar buite die hof besig as sy nie in haar sober rooi toga in Keeromstraat sit nie? "Ek lees graag. Tans is dit *Man in Beijing* van Henning Mankell. Ek hou van skrywers soos Ruth Rendell en PD Brown en lees ook graag die boeke van my kollega Andrew Brown. Ek en Theuns geniet dit om te reis, en gaan kuier jaarliks vir Martine in Frankryk. Daar is nog so baie plekke wat ons wil sien. Ons is ook sosiaal – lief vir kuier, saam-eet, uitgaan, familie-Sondae met lekker kos."

Ek spekuleer kliphard oor die verloop van 'n Steyn-gesinsmaal – praat hulle hoofsaaklik oor die regte, die wet, die verkeerde? Nee-nee, hulle is gewone mense wat oor gewone goed gesels. Verder ry die gesin saam fiets. Elize het dit jare gelede begin, en nou fiets sy, eggenoot én die kinders dikwels rond. "Ons het al die Argus menigmaal voltooi en probeer om nie die jaarlikse OFM Classic in

Bloemfontein te mis nie. Dan kry ons sommer 'n goeie kuier in op die Steyns se trusteeplaas, Onze Rust, met skoonsus Jackie se lekkerbek-boerekos. Ek kan dan ook heerlijk met Susette en haar kinders kuier. Susette was ook, nes ousus, 'n Kovsie-joolprinses.

'n Klein vroujie kom waarsku regter Steyn dat dit amper tyd is vir haar hofsitting.

Wat dié vrou vir my egter na afloop van ons gesprek onderskei, is haar totale pretensieloosheid. Sy is sonder fieterjassies, aards, vriendelik, gelukkig, dankbaar vir haar lewe en voorregte, al is sy nou een van net 'n handjievol invloedryke regters in die Kaapse Hooggeregshof.

Regter Elize Steyn is een van Kovsies se beste produkte ooit: 'n beskeie, mooi, begaafde sprokiesboekkonigin, wat mens in die tegnologiese Facebook-era herinner dat daar wel nog goeie outydse stories met gelukkige heldinne bestaan! **B**



Hennie se reis na Caravaggio se skilderye

Hennie Lambrechts is 'n bekende argitek van Bloemfontein en was onder meer verantwoordelik vir die omskepping van ou Reitz-eetsaal in die pragtige Eeufeeskompleks ter viering van die UV se eerste eeu.

Hennie Lambrechts skryf oor sy liefde vir die werke van die skilder Caravaggio naas sy liefde vir argitektuur. Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio se dood 400 jaar gelede is verlede jaar herdenk.

As ek 'n moment in my soektog na sy skilderye moet uitlig, dan is dit die middag in Milano toe ek, plat op die vloer, die eerste maal Caravaggio se Aandete in Emmaus beleef het. Een van daardie rare oomblikke in 'n mens se lewe. Magies. Transformerend. Dit was opvallend hoe hierdie werk vroeër vanjaar, tydens die presidensiële uitstalling in Rome, tussen sy ander skilderye uitgestaan het.

Die gedempte kleurgebruik, kenmerkend van sy latere werke, is met eerste aanskouing, bedrieglik eenvoudig. Die uitdrukking van Goddelike teenwoordigheid, deur gebruik te maak van 'n onbekende ligbron, is dramaties. 'n Verwysing na sy Lombardiese wortels. Geen veridealiseerde skoonheid nie. Slegs 'n stuk aardse realisme. Die Prati-aandete is 'n meditatiewe aanslag in 'n moment van openbaarmaking. 'n Ontbloting en tergelykertyd 'n vooruitskouing van noodwendige

skeiding. 'n Verhewe spirituele aanslag teenoor sy vroeë Mattei-weergawe oor dieselfde onderwerp. Die donker agtergrond isoleer die figure en verleen 'n innerlike diepte aan die werk. Dit is bykans asof die gedagtes van die pelgrims deur die gedempte lig blootgelê word.

Die werk is geskilder tydens sy vlug uit Rome, pas nadat hy 'n moord gepleeg het. Sandrina Bandera skryf vroeër vanjaar dat die ongekeende intensiteit van die skildery juis hieraan toegeskryf kan word. Die toneel word gekenmerk deur 'n tipiese Caravaggio verskraling tot die allernoodsaaklike soos onderstreep deur die eenvoudige stillewe op die tafel.

Dit is onmoontlik om nie by sy skilderye betrokke te raak nie. Elkeen is soos 'n flitsmoment in tyd. 'n Greep op die onmiddellike werklikheid wat nog nooit in die skilderkuns geëwenaar is nie. Die natuurlike intensiteit van sy werke, die geometriese eenvoud, simboliese krag en gelaagdheid is enigmaties. Jy bly nie vir lank 'n toeskouer nie. Sy unieke aanslag omvorm jou tot deelnemer.

Sy vroeë liriese skilderye is gaandeweg vervang deur kragtige skulpturele figure. Natuurlik, maar tergelykertyd vereenvoudig. Vuishoue. Oomblikke van stilword en meditasie. Poëtiese simbolies. Sy ruimtelike komposisies, tegniese vakmanskap en invenzione (vernuwing) is ongekeend in die geskiedenis van kuns. Hy het meervoudige betekenis deur 'n enkele kwashaal vergestalt. Sy berekende terughoudendheid en uitdrukking van die essensiële skilder 'n misleidende eenvoud van die alledaagse. Dit omvat egter 'n diepere dimensie en gelaagdheid verby sy dramatiese chiaroscuro. 'n Uitdrukking van die onverklaarbare. Die werke gedurende die laaste vier jaar van sy lewe verbeeld 'n ongekeende eksistensiële betekenis.

Dit is nou bykans twintig jaar wat ek hom oor die wêreld volg, 51 skilderye later. En steeds word ek betower deur hierdie geniale skilder. Sy unieke werke vorm 'n spilpunt in die ontwikkeling van skilderkuns. 'n Kontroversiële, skoorsoekende karakter. Deur baie beskou as die vader van modernisme.

'n Heildronk op Merisi – en my reise na sy laaste skilderye! **B**



Die reaksie van Kleopas nadat Jesus homself aan hom en sy mede pelgrimsreisiger openbaar het. (Luk 24:30-31)

Die herbergier in die skildery. 'n Toonbeeld van emosionele vertolking.



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The prestigious Rhodes Scholarship to study at the Oxford University in the United Kingdom was awarded to two students of our university.

Sannah Mokone and DW Bester were selected as Rhodes Scholars for 2011. It is the first time that the UFS has two students who have been awarded this sought-after scholarship in the same year.

Sannah is completing her B.Pub.Hons degree at the UFS and will read for an M.Sc. in Africa Studies at Oxford. DW is completing his honours degree in Actuarial Science and will read for a D.Phil.

The UFS is honoured to have not only one but two students who will join the ranks of past Rhodes Scholars such as Justice Edwin Cameron, Dr David Woods, Adv. Bram Fisher, Dr Loyiso Nongxa, Mr Isaac Shongwe and Mr Kumi Naidoo, who was appointed as the Executive Director of Greenpeace International.

Sannah Mokone and DW Bester will pack for Oxford in 2011.

Photo: Hannes Pieterse.



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