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UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE
VRYSTAAT
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FREISTATA



Brief van die redakteur

One of the definitions of 'energy' describes it as 'natural enthusiasm and effort'. At the UFS, energy is properly rushing through our veins – be it staff, students or alumni.

This edition is reflecting on among others how students and staff used their energy to design and build a house for a colleague. With the UFS's Schools Partnership Project and the Family Maths and Family Science programmes, staff are also making a difference in the lives of children. Both projects provide assistance in making the learning process easier for children, whether it is to be more effective in class, or to bring home core concepts through recycled materials.

Then there are some colleagues who travel a bit further to make a difference in a town like Philippolis by promoting multilingualism. Five interpreters received training and members of the community are now able to speak their first language in any situation, whether it is at the police station, municipality or clinic.

On the field of research, the enthusiasm and energy of academics also paid off. Prof Jeanet Conradie was not only elected as a member of ASSAf, but was also runner-up in the senior category for Distinguished Women Researchers: Physical and Engineering Science, in the Department of Science and Technology's 2014 Women in Science Awards.

With his research, Prof Francis Smit can almost assemble an entire heart. Just think about the difference this will make in the lives of many people.

We also shouldn't forget students and staff making their mark in the cultural and sports environment. Gene McCaskill appeared on TV this year and Wayde van Niekerk came home from the 2014 Commonwealth Games with a silver medal. A lot of energy definitely went into this.

Technology also didn't lag behind. Marlize Holtzhauzen and Dr Frelet de Villiers respectively designed apps to make emergency medical services more accessible and help students learn their music notes.

On that note, I can't neglect to mention that *Bult* and the 2014 Stakeholders Perception Audit both received bronze medals at the International Business Awards and the IABC.

Greetings till next time
Leonie



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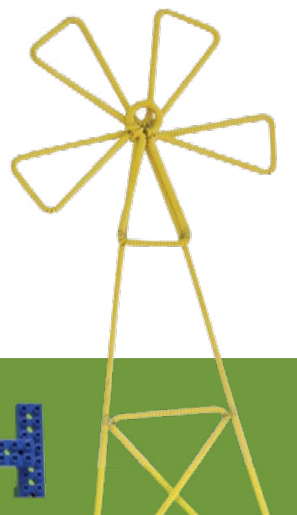
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Re-curriculation at the UFS: Where are we?

By Sharon Paulse

The Council on Higher Education (CHE) introduced a new structure for the design and delivery of programmes at higher-education institutions in South Africa, namely the new Higher Education Qualifications Sub-Framework (HEQSF).

The UFS consequently decided to use this process as an opportunity to perform a critical analysis of its existing programme. The Directorate for Institutional Research and Academic Planning (DIRAP) performed an institutional programme analysis which revealed that the majority of programmes offered at the university needed structural and content changes in order to meet the national programme requirements stipulated in the Framework.

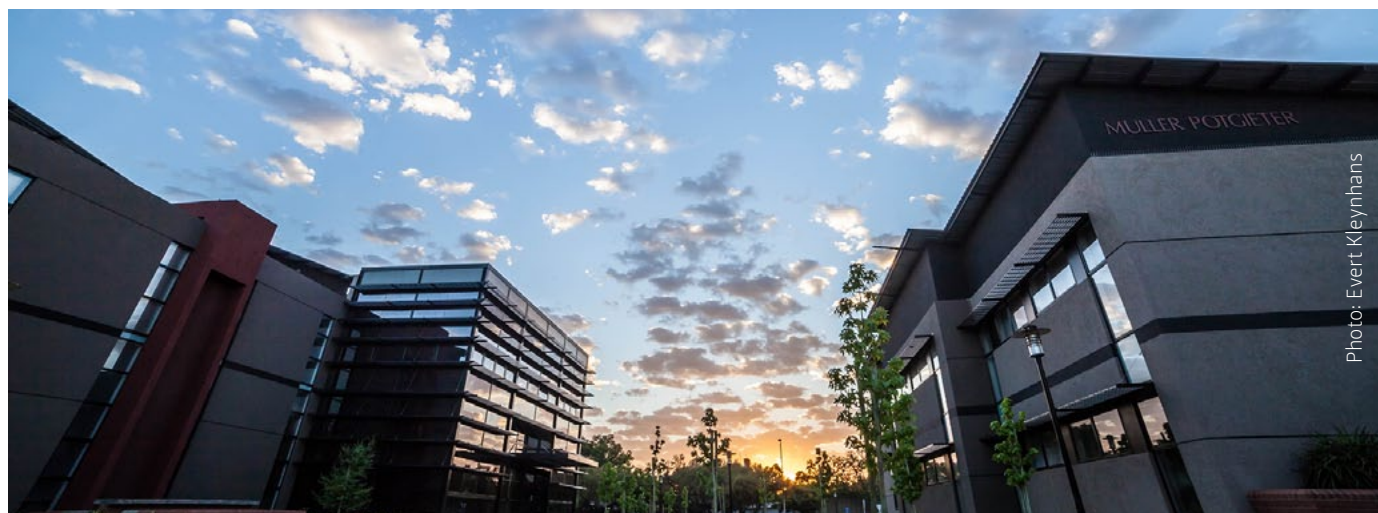
The process of curriculum review which followed, served two purposes: firstly, it ensured the successful alignment of UFS programmes to the requirements of the Higher Education Qualifications Sub-Framework (HEQSF) – this refers to a review of academic offerings in terms of title, programme type, purpose, NQF level, credits, etc.; and secondly, to facilitate a curriculum review and consequent renewal of programme structure and content in order to reflect the vision, mission and values of the institution.

The primary objectives of the review process included the benchmarking of programmes with those offered at other national and international universities, to ensure that the knowledge content of UFS programmes is conversant with the international academic discourse of the relevant disciplines. An area also addressed by the review process, was programme design to ensure that educational practices are established which advance a critical discourse, innovative thinking and the values of democratic citizenship, as well as meaningful articulation between programmes, enabling students' progression to appropriate and reputable postgraduate degrees.

The university submitted its Category A, B and C programmes to HEQC. To date, 68 Category A programmes, those that required minimal change, have been deemed aligned and accredited and may be offered from 2015. The 135 Category B programmes – those that required less than 50% change, were submitted in July 2014, and are currently undergoing Higher Education Quality Committee (HEQC) accreditation evaluation. The outcome of this process is expected from January 2015. In the meantime, the status quo remains for those programmes and they must be offered unchanged until the HEQC and Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) approvals have been granted. Lastly, the 268 Category C programmes, those that needed substantial change, or were found to be redundant, will be phased out. Processes are in place to phase out identified programmes and replace them with newly developed programmes.

All universities are now developing a new HEQSF aligned Programme Qualification Mix (PQM) that currently contains the Category A HEQSF aligned and new programmes. This HEQSF PQM will be extended as Category B applications and new programmes are approved. A huge challenge for all universities is to get the system ready to run various versions of programmes concurrently.

In conclusion, irrespective of the HEQSF alignment process, our quality enhancement process is on-going in our mission towards academic excellence. The framework referred to, states that the UFS – through its curriculum, for one – must be part of the international academic discourse and should reflect the plurality of perspectives necessary to educate critical graduates. **B**



The Muller Potgieter Building on the Bloemfontein Campus.

Photo: Evert Kleyhans



The computer laboratory on the Qwaqwa Campus.

Photo: Evert Kleyhans



A walk-way on the South Campus.

Photo: Sonia Small

Great graduations in 2014

At the UFS we are not only proud of our graduates, but we are also proud of the way we celebrate their graduations with special inspiring speakers. *By Stefan Lotter*

Autumn

The Autumn Graduation took place over a period of four days. Miss South Africa, Rolene Strauss, a fourth-year medical student at the UFS, graced attendees of the event with her presence.

On the first day of the event, Dr Ruda Landman, known as former presenter of the actuality programme Carte Blanche, addressed graduates with a clear message: get a job and give it your all.

Comedian Loyiso Gola addressed the graduates on the second day with the message, "Go out and conquer!" He explained that as a comedian he had learned that it was important to keep on learning. "Learning is easy. Unlearning is the difficult thing. Do the easy one," he said.

Paralympic tennis player Lucas Sithole was the guest speaker on day three. He told his own story of trauma and triumph, all the while with a broad smile. On a Saturday morning around 10:00, Sithole was involved in a tragic accident, landing under a train. This accident cost him both his legs and his right arm.

"To me, that was my graduation day," Sithole said. Since then, he has become an international tennis star, ranking worldwide at No 2 in wheelchair tennis. "Today, you have power in your hands," he told the graduates. "Try to change the world with that power."

The South African rocket scientist and Harvard graduate Siyabulela Xuza addressed graduates on the last day of the graduation. He inspired the whole audience with his nothing-is-impossible attitude.

"Our graduates are always inspired by top-calibre speakers addressing them at our ceremonies. This year's graduations featured the likes of Miss South Africa, a rocket scientist and a satirist."



Rolene Strauss.



Dr Ruda Landman.



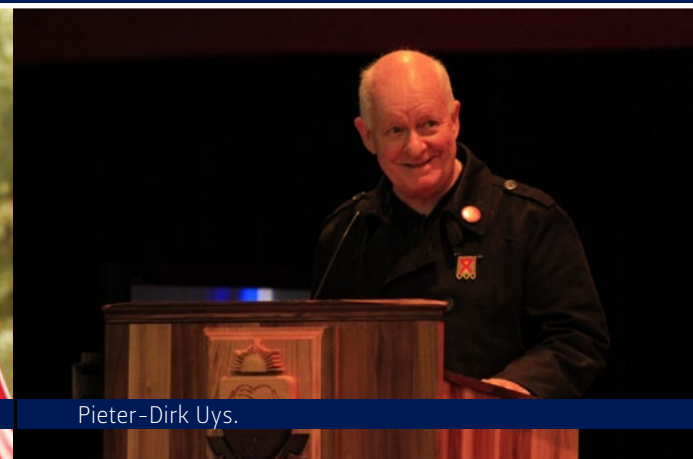
Loyiso Gola.



Stafford Masie.



Siyabulela Xuza.



Pieter-Dirk Uys.

Winter

Hazel Motsoeneng, District Director of Motheo in the Department of Education in the Free State, offered a powerful message to the graduates on the first day of our Winter Graduation.

"Teaching today is about reaching learners. The world of the future will not be changed because of the money you make, or the car you drive. The world of the future will be changed because you touched a child's life. Teaching is still a labour of love."

Stafford Masie, the former general manager of Google South Africa, addressed graduates on day two of the graduation ceremony.


"If you want to grow as an individual, realise that there are more people outside your immediate environment than inside who can help to make you a better person. Take the opportunity and get exposed," Masie said.

Spring

Most recently, at the Spring Graduation Ceremony, well-known satirist Pieter-Dirk Uys was the guest speaker.

"A person seldom gets the job he or she wants," Uys said. "The secret is rather to become the job you want to have."

He referred to comic examples from South African history in order to describe to the graduates that each and every South African has the power to contribute to a good democracy.

"In a good democracy, the people lead and the government follows. Go out and lead." 



Lucas Sithole.

Pienk presidente

en innoverende kunsprojekte op kampus

van Afrika tot doer onder

Deur Stefan Lotter

Die Instituut vir Versoening en Sosiale Geregtheid aan die UV en die Johannes Stegmann-kunsgalery, in samewerking met die Vryfees, het 'n innoverende kunstenaars- en akademiese forum aangebied.

Die forum, Cohesions and Disruptions: Art as a Key to Transformation, was paslik beplan om saam te val met Mandela-dag. Hierdie geleentheid het deel gevorm van die transformasie-strategie van die Vryfees, wat daarop gemik was om meer steun aan diversiteit en kruiskulturele hedendaagse kunsprogramme te verleen.

Cohesions and Disruptions was deel van die nuwe Program vir Innovering en Kunsvormontwikkeling (PIKO). Dit het die kruiskulturele OPENLab 2014, 'n nuwe Australiese/Suid-Afrikaanse laboratorium vir vroeë en middelloopbaan- Suid-Afrikaanse kunstenaars ingesluit, sowel as 'n vennootskap met die Australiese-gebaseerde SituateArt in Festivals-inisiatief, wat deur die Salamanca-kunssentrum in Hobart, Tasmanie bestuur word. Onder die forumsprekers was die Australiese visuele kunstenaar, Cigdem Aydemir, se 'Plastic Histories'-projek sekerlik die sigbaarste tydens die Vryfees.


Aydemir het pres Steyn se standbeeld op die Rooiplein, asook die CR Swart-beeld op die Bloemfontein-kampus vakuumpak – in pienk. Haar projek, 'Plastic Histories', was 'n openbare kunsprojek wat ons aanmoedig om monumente in hulle historiese konteks te evalueer.

Deur die monumente te vakuumpak, verwys Aydemir na hulle betekenis en bewaring. Terselfdertyd openbaar dit egter ook die aard van hulle omstrede en geslagtelike historiese funksie. Dit is omdat die meeste monumente in postkoloniale lande tipies die prestasies van mans in diens van hulle volk vier.

“In reaksie hierop, gee die projek erkenning aan die bydrae van vroue van alle rasse, gemeenskappe en seksuele oriëntasie tot die grootse verhaal van 'n postapartheid Suid-Afrika.”

Aydemir het ook 'n “app” in samewerking met die Australiese kunstenaar Warren Armstrong ontwikkel. Dit is gebruik vir die uitgebreide realiteitsbesigtiging van vier monumente in die stad – dié van pres Brand, genl De Wet, pres Reitz en genl Hertzog. Besoekers kon dan 'n slimfoon of iPad voor die monumente hou en die monumente sien asof dit in pienk plastiek vakuumpak is. Sulke digitaal-gemanipuleerde foto's van negentiende-eeuse en hedendaagse monumente van mans in Bloemfontein wat by die Johannes Stegmann-galery uitgestal is, was verder ook deel van die projek.

Een van die belangrike verdere doelwitte van PIKO is om innoverende interdisiplinêre navorsing deur middel van wetenskap/kunsresidentskappe te bewerkstellig. Die Australiese kunstenaar, dr Nigel Helyer, erenavorsingsgenoot by SymbioticA aan die Universiteit van Wes-Australië in Perth, was die eerste kunstenaar-in-residensie in die Departement Mikrobiëse, Biochemiese en Voedselbiotegnologie en die Odeion Skool vir Musiek. Sy projek, Genemusik, verken geenkodes en musikale komposisie.

Dr Mari Velonaki, Direkteur van die Sentrum vir Sosiale Robotika by die Nasionale Instituut vir Eksperimentele Kuns aan die Universiteit van Nieu-Suid-Wallis in Sydney, sal ook in 2015 saam met die Departement Rekenaarwetenskap werk om nuwe mens-/rekenaarverbintenisse te ondersoek. 



Die Australiese visuele kunstenaar, Cigdem Aydemir, se openbare kunsprojek, 'Plastic Histories', moedig ons aan om monumente in hulle historiese konteks te evalueer. Dié kuns was te sien by vanjaar se Vryfees.

UFS Postgraduate School: A partner in postgraduate success

By Mamosa Makaya

The benefits of postgraduate study are well documented and universities compete to attract the cream of international and South African students to their postgraduate programmes. The Postgraduate School (PGS) has established itself as a distinctive advantage that the University of the Free State offers its postgraduate students.

During her inaugural lecture at the opening of the School in 2011, Prof Maresi Nerad from Washington University in Seattle stated, "Five years from now the school will have taken the lead in preparing graduate students who are world citizens and intellectual entrepreneurs."

According to Dr Henriette van den Berg, Director of the PGS at the UFS, after three years the school is exceeding expectations in terms of promoting excellent postgraduate education at the university. The researcher capacity development programme of the school not only offers opportunities to develop research skills and transferable competencies such as writing funding proposals and project management, but also focuses on the personal and social development of students. Both staff and students attend the numerous workshops focusing on research design and methodology, academic writing and becoming a world-class scholar.

"In April 2014 the PGS launched a mentoring programme for high-achieving honours/master's students, aimed at developing their leadership and academic skills. The programme includes subjects such as career planning, critical thinking, academic communication skills and leadership qualities."

Pressure on students to complete their studies within tight timeframes and to increase their research output put tremendous pressure on students and their supervisors. The PGS therefore also focuses on the empowerment of supervisors with supervision training by international experts such as Prof Harry Wels from the Netherlands and Prof Gina Wisker from England. Apart from training opportunities, emerging researchers participate in monthly discussions on supervision practices, policies and the challenges supervisors face. Many inexperienced supervisors also consult with staff at the school regarding issues related to their students' research and supervision challenges.

"The postgraduate journey can be a very lonely journey, working late at night, reading and writing, having little contact with the rest of the university community. The school actively reaches out to off-campus postgraduate students through a monthly newsletter and regular email and social-media communication. Our Facebook page and blog are frequented by followers in 31 countries. Regular posts on helpful hints for postgraduate students on issues such as writer's block, how to avoid plagiarism and how to make the most of your research supervision have a growing following. All these communication media help to create a stronger sense of connectedness to the university and many students testify to the motivational value of these social support networks," says Dr Van den Berg.

Under the leadership of Dr Van den Berg, the UFS Postgraduate School has become a warm and welcoming space where future researchers are inspired to reach for the stars and to build the competence to fulfil their dreams. **B**

Dr Henriette van den Berg.



Photo: Supplied

University communication audit competes on international stage

By Mamosa Makaya

The Department of Communication and Brand Management received two awards at the 40th annual IABC Excellence Gala in Toronto, Canada. This includes a merit award in the category Communication Research Management and the prestigious Jake Wittmer Award, which recognises the best use of research in a communication programme. Both awards were awarded for the Stakeholder Perceptions Audit conducted in February 2014. The audit was considered one of the best breakthrough strategies used by a university to measure the perceptions of its stakeholders.

"South Africa received a total of 13 awards and this was a very proud moment for all of us present. It was a tremendous milestone to be recognised by our international peers," says Lacea Loader, Director of Communication and Brand Management. Three of the top awards also went to South Africa: The 'Best of the Best' awards went to Volkswagen for an internal communication campaign, the Chairman's Award to Dr Amanda Hamilton-Attwell and the Jake Wittmer Award to the UFS.

The conference was attended by about 1 200 people from across the world. South African companies and institutions included Kumba Iron Ore, North-West University, Tshwane University of Technology (TUT), Woolworths and Volkswagen. The conference covers a large number of topics in various fields as well as interesting speakers from across the globe.

The department was further presented with the IABC Africa Gold Quill award in Sandton, Johannesburg in August 2014 for excellence in "Measuring the impact of communication strategy on university reputation". The Gold Quill award is one of the top awards in the communication industry. Other recipients of awards included Kumba Iron Ore, Sasol and Volkswagen.

The two awards signify the great strides that have been taken to position the university in the minds of its stakeholders. This includes how messages are communicated, the images used to tell the story of the university, the quality of our publications and how the brand has grown over the years. **B**



Photo: Supplied

Receiving the IABC Africa Gold Quill award are, from the left: Martie Nortjé, Lacea Loader and Mamosa Makaya. They are all from the UFS Department of Communication and Brand Management.

Qwaqwa Campus strengthens relations with traditional leaders

By Thabo Kessah

In September, the Qwaqwa Campus hosted the Inaugural Morena Paulus Mopeli Mokhachane Memorial Lecture, which was used to strengthen the good working relations the campus has with the traditional leadership in the Qwaqwa area.

In acknowledging the mutually beneficial relationship, Dr Choice Makhetha, Vice-Rector: External Relations at the UFS, thanked the Mopeli family and in particular Dr TK Mopeli for their love of education.

'It was during Dr TK Mopeli's time as a Prime Minister of the then Qwaqwa that this beautiful campus was conceptualised. That we must never forget. We must also never forget that Dr TK donated his entire book collection to our library as he wants to share all that wisdom with our students,' Dr Makhetha said during the memorial lecture.

'Having noted this, it is, therefore, not surprising that one of our own morena in the area, Morena Neo Mopeli, graduated with a

BCom degree earlier this year. This goes to show how valued education is in this area.' 'It is with this in mind that morena and the local community must utilise the university's research capacity to solve the societal problems that they deal with on a daily basis. The UFS is prepared to support the entire society as we go ahead and make the best out of the traditional leadership that we have here', Dr Makhetha said.

Talking on behalf of the Mopeli family, Makhabane Mopeli, who was also facilitating the programme, said that the entire Bakoena Royal Council was humbled by the UFS gesture of putting traditional leadership under the spotlight.

The lecture titled 'Understanding leadership qualities of Morena Paulus Mopeli Mokhachane: From hopeful leadership perspective' was delivered by former Qwaqwa Campus Principal Dr Nyefolo Maletle from the Department of African Languages. **R**



Dr Choice Makhetha with Mofumahadi Thato Mopeli from the Bakoena Royal House.



Sake-ontbyt ontwikkel belangrike vennootskappe

Deur Mamosa Makaya

Projekte en inisiatiewe bou kapasiteit en ontwikkel leierskap

Die universiteit het tydens 'n sakeontbyt meer as vyftig vennote en alumni in Sandton, Johannesburg, getraakteer ten einde belangrike projekte te ontwikkel en te bevorder. Die geleentheid was die idee van Institusionele Bevordering, in samewerking met die Kantoor van die Visekanselier en Rektor.

Die besprekings het gefokus op die belangrike rol wat institusionele vennootskappe speel in die uitbreiding van die universiteit se vermoë om meer skole met ondersteuning te bereik en tegnologiese onderwys hulpmiddels te ontwikkel vir agtergeblewe gemeenskappe in die Vrystaat en die land oor die algemeen.

In sy kommentaar het prof Jonathan Jansen, Visekanselier en Rektor van die UV vennote bedank vir hulle voortgesette bystand en samewerking met die universiteit ten einde belangrike projekte en inisiatiewe te ondersteun, wat die vlak van onderwys in die Vrystaat verbeter het, vaardigheidsontwikkeling moontlik gemaak en jong leiers gekweek het.

"Dr Reuel Khoza, die eregas en nie-uitvoerende voorsitter van Nedbank, en dr Marcus Ingram, medegasheer en Direkteur van Institusionele Bevordering, het die rol van sinvolle leierskap in die Afrika-konteks, asook sosiale en politieke strukture wat bydra tot die ontwikkeling van toekomstige leiers, bespreek. Dr Khoza het dit eenvoudig, maar kragtig gestel: 'Indien nie ons nie, wie anders?'"

Die geleentheid is bygewoon deur hoofde van korporasies, belangrike rolspelers in vennootskapsorganisasies en NRO's, alumni en korporatiewe sosiale beleggingspesialiste van vooraanstaande finansiële instellings. **R**



At the breakfast were, in front, from the left: Nkabinde Ntokozo, UFS Institutional Advancement; Patricia Lamusse, UFS Institutional Advancement; Saretjie Musgrave, Assistant Director ICTISE, Tertia de Bruin, Project Coordinator: Children's Wing from UFS Marketing; back: Dr Peet Venter, Campus Principal and Director UFS Schools Partnership Programme on the South Campus; Dr Ronica Ramsout, UFS Institutional Advancement; Mamosa Makaya, Communication and Brand Management at the UFS; Dr Ruel Khoza, Chairman of Nedbank; Hercules Dreyer, UFS Schools Partnership Programme; Carol Bunn, UFS Strategic Development Manager; Dr Marcus Ingram, Director: Institutional Advancement and Kathy Verwey, UFS Institutional Advancement.

Prof Maxim Finkelstein the only A-rated researcher in Probability and Statistics in SA

By Leonie Bolleurs

Prof Maxim Finkelstein from the Department of Mathematical Statistics at the University of the Free State (UFS) received an A-rating from the National Research Foundation (NRF). This makes him the only A-rated researcher in 'Probability and Statistics' regarding Mathematical Sciences in the country.

According to the NRF-rating process, a person with an A-rating is a world leader in his field.

Prof Jonathan Jansen, Vice-Chancellor and Rector, said: "I am absolutely delighted for Professor Finkelstein and for the fact that this is one of the clearest signs that the UFS has significantly increased its standards of research across the institution as a whole."

Prof Finkelstein says this rating means a great deal to him, since it is a reflection of his dedication and perseverance.

"Of course, the rating is not a goal in itself," Prof Finkelstein says. "The goal is the high quality research and the rating is just an objective indication of this. Along with the satisfaction, this rating brings the responsibility for maintaining this high status in the future."

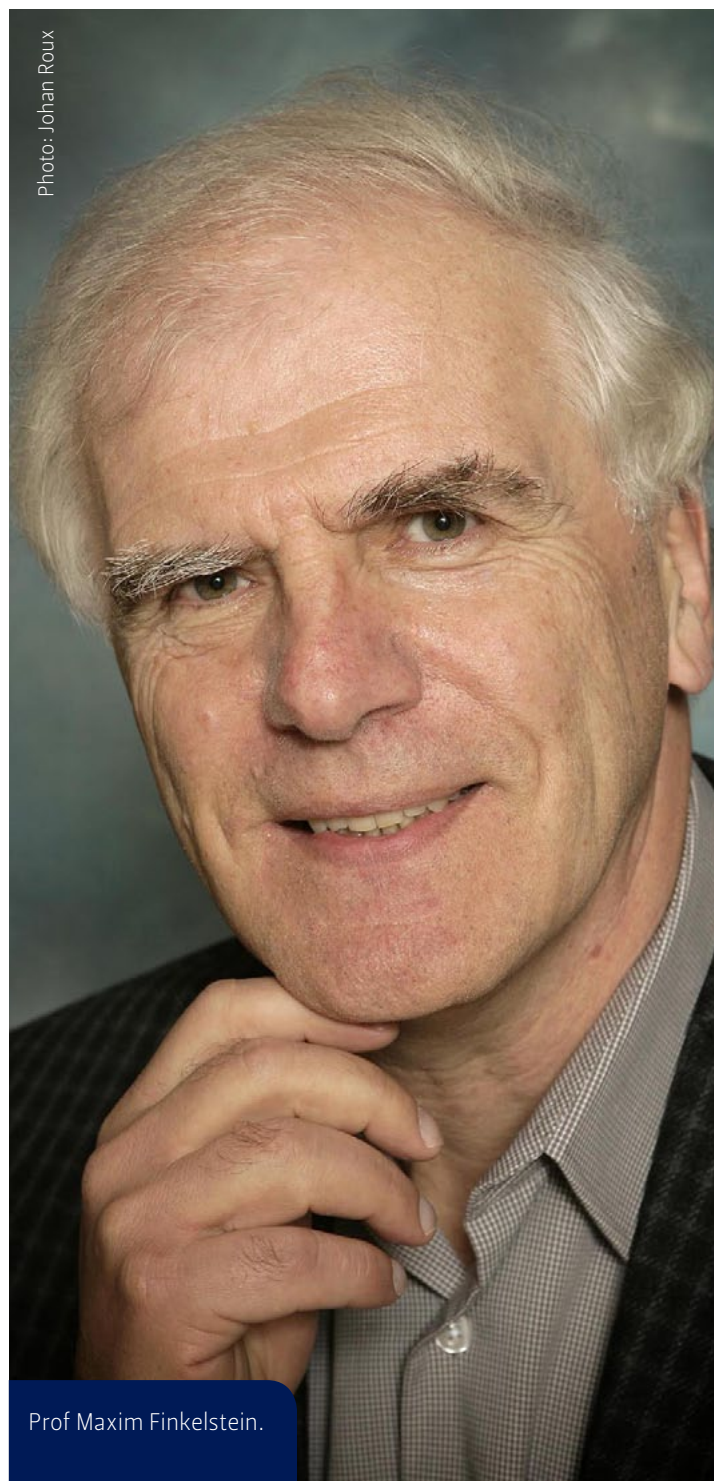
Prof Finkelstein conducts his general research in the field of 'Probability and Statistics', but his specific area of focus is 'Stochastic Modelling'. He solely lectures postgraduate students and also mentors a few master's and PhD students. This affords him the time to mainly concentrate on his research.

"Finally, I wish to emphasise the fact that high-quality research became the prime goal at the UFS," says Prof Finkelstein. He underscores the efforts of the Vice-Chancellor and the Vice-Rector: Research in creating excellent possibilities for researchers. This has already resulted in remarkable improvements in the university's research outputs – and consequently an increase in the number of rated researchers.

Prof Finkelstein's A-rating will become effective from 1 January 2015. Ratings are valid for a period of six years and researchers are invited to apply for re-evaluation in the fifth year.

A total of 119 UFS researchers currently have evaluation and rating status from the NRF, says Nico Benson, Deputy Director: Research Development. Approximately 30 researchers are still waiting for response from the NRF regarding applications submitted. A total of 16 ratings are already known. On the Qwaqwa Campus of the UFS, five researchers are rated. 

Photo: Johan Roux



Prof Maxim Finkelstein.

ASSAf erken drie van UV vir wetenskaplike prestasies

Deur Leonie Bolleurs



Prof Jeanet Conradie, dr Aliza le Roux en prof Jonathan Jansen.

Die Visekanselier en Rektor van die UV, prof Jonathan Jansen, is met ASSAf se Wetenskap-vir-Gemeenskap Goue Medalje ten opsigte van vereer vir sy uitnemende prestasie in wetenskaplike denke tot voordeel van die gemeenskap.


Prof Jansen sê: "Ek is so geïnspireer deur die toekenning van die Akademie Goue Medalje omdat dit die krag van die wetenskap en geleerdheid erken om die menslike toestand te verbeter."

'n Verdere hoogtepunt by die Akademie vir Wetenskap van Suid-Afrika (ASSAf) se gesogte jaarlikse toekenningseremonie, was toe twee UV-akademici as lede van dié instansie ingehuldig is.

Prof Jeanet Conradie van die Departement Chemie en dr Aliza le Roux van die Departement Dierkunde en Entomologie op die UV se Qwaqwa-kampus is twee van die 23 nuwe lede van

ASSAf wat ingehuldig is. Een van ASSAf se kerntake is om die land se uitnemendste vakkundiges te vereer deur hulle tot lede van die akademie te verkies.

Lede is die belangrikste bate van die akademie en bied hulle tyd en kundigheid vrywillig aan. ASSAf gee erkenning aan wetenskaplike prestasie deur die verlening van lidmaatskap.

ASSAf is die amptelike akademie vir wetenskap en verteenwoordig die land in die internasionale gemeenskap van wetenskapakademies. As gesamentlike hulpbron, maak die akademie die totstandkoming van bewysgebaseerde oplossings vir nasionale probleme moontlik. 

Kovsies blink uit op Statebondspele

Deur Ruan Bruwer

Die Suid-Afrikaanse span wat aan vanjaar se Statebondspele deelgeneem het, was goed verteenwoordig wat studente en oud-studente van die Universiteit van die Vrystaat betref.

Hulle het 'n beduidende bydrae tot Suid-Afrika se medalje-oes van 40 gelewer. Een van Suid-Afrika se 13 goues is deur die Suid-Afrikaanse Sewes span onder die breierskap van Neil Powell behaal.

Powell, 'n Kovsie van die laat 1990's, het help vermag wat geen span in die vorige vier Speles kon doen nie – om die magtige Nieu-Seeland in 'n wedstryd te verslaan. Die Blitsbokke het die Kiwi's in die eindstryd met 17-12 streepsuiker gegee.

Een van die min atlete wat 'n medalje in 'n atletieknommer kon verower, was Wayde van Niekerk. Dié 22-jarige student was tweede in die 400 m. Hy het maar eers redelik onlangs in die 400 m begin meeding en in Junie die Suid-Afrikaanse rekord na 44.38 sekondes verbeter.

'n Prestasie wat baie ongesiens verbygegaan het, was Suid-Afrika se judospan wat derde uit 34 deelnemende lande geëindig het.

Onder die breierskap van die oud-Kovsie Vintcent (dis hoe sy naam gespel word) Redpath het die judospan 'n goue, silwer- en twee bronsmedaljes ingepalm.

Was dit nie dat Kate Robert in die driekamp se vrouebyeenkoms met die fiets geval het nie, was 'n podiumplek glad nie uitgesluit nie. Sy was ná die swemskof nog goed geplaas voordat 'n mededinger in haar vasgejaag en Roberts tot die 14de plek verdoem is. As 'n lid van die gemengde aflosspan het sy darem met 'n silwermedalje vergoed.

Die Protea-netbalspan het teleurgestel deur sesde te eindig. Die Kovsies Adèle Niemand, Karla Mostert en Maryka Holtzhausen was al drie sleutelspelers. Holtzhausen het die span aangevoer en geen ander provinsie het meer spelers in die 12-tal gehad nie.

Ander lede van Span Suid-Afrika was die 1500 m-atleet Johan Cronjé en die pluimbalspelers Willem Viljoen, Elme de Villiers en Sandra le Grange. **B**



Foto: Anja Aucamp

Wayde van Niekerk.

Ritsims raak net beter vir versamelaar

Deur Stefan Lotter

Sommige mense versamel skulpe, sommige versamel outydse of oorsese muntstukke, maar hoeveel mense versamel *Ritsim*, die publikasie van die Kovsie Jool-gemeenskapsdiens.

"My vrou het 'n versamelnaam vir al my hobbies; sy noem dit gemors," sê Oom Dries Kleyn (75) 'n pensionaris van Bloemfontein. Want ek versamel baie goed; boeke, kieres, knipmesse, skaakstelle en nog baie dinge. Dit is 'n lekker ding om goed so te versamel."

Oom Dries was jare lank 'n klerk by die spoorweg en het al meer as 40 *Ritsims* in sy leeftyd versamel. Alhoewel hy nooit kom studeer het nie, was sy dogter, Charlotte, wel 'n BAMus-student by Kovsies in die 1980s.



"Ek het my eerste *Ritsim* gekoop kort na ek in die 1950's begin werk het. Van die oueres het later verlore geraak toe ons getrek het. Maar in die 1970's het ek besluit nou moet ek my versameling bymekaar begin hou," vertel oom Dries.

"Ek haal so nou en dan een uit dan lees ek lekker en geniet al die grappe. Die grappe word ook elke jaar al ouliker."

"Ek was al baie keer 'n seremoniemeester. Veral op troues. En al daai *Ritsim*-grappies het baie gehelp. Jy kan eenvoudig nie genoeg kry van daai grappies nie."

Dan vra jy oom Dries watter jaar s'n was sy gunsteling of watter grappie was die beste? "Weet jy. Elke jaar s'n is fantasies goed op sy eie manier. Elke jaar s'n is 'n uitgawe op sy eie. 'n Mens kan nie onderskeid maak tussen hulle nie. Ek geniet dit elke jaar net meer en meer. Oor tien jaar vorentoe gaan 'n ou dit seker net nog meer geniet."

En oom Dries is verseker van plan om oor tien jaar nog steeds sy *Ritsim* te kry en te geniet ...

"Ek soek nog my *Ritsim* by die huis," sê hy. "Hulle kom verkoop dit nie meer soos vroeër jare by die huise nie. En teen die tyd wat ek by die huis uitkom in die oggende is dit ook nie meer op straat te koop nie. Maar dan bel ek die Joolkantoor en bestel een." **B**



Oom Dries Kleyn en Amanda Tongha.

Edward Kieswetter: *A lifelong scholar*

By Ilse Smalberger

Edward Kieswetter, the Group Chief Executive of Alexander Forbes Holdings Limited, is also the Vice-Chair of the UFS Council. He has been involved with the university for 15 years, first as a visiting professor teaching Leadership in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences, and later as member of the university Council. He is very clear about the role he thinks the Council should play at the UFS.

Thanks to his broad experience in senior leadership roles and as a turn-around specialist, Edward is in the perfect position to appreciate what is expected of universities today.

"The Council, as the ultimate governance structure of the university, has the inordinate challenge of leading this institution strategically to ensure that it achieves the highest level of academic excellence, whilst remaining relevant in a complex and dynamic South African and international society."

"Whilst the UFS, like many of its peers, has occupied and continues to occupy a place of prominence in our history, it continually has to reflect on the extent to which it has a positive impact relevant to society.

Many of tomorrow's political, business and civic leaders are students at universities today. Therefore, universities have the inordinate responsibility, but also the privileged accountability, to contribute towards shaping the next generation leadership and society."

Fortunately, the former South Africa's Boss of the Year (2000) is not all work and no play. He enjoys creating and building things with his hands, playing a good game of Scrabble and relaxing with friends, family and a glass of good red wine.

"His life's purpose – being a blessing – is never far from his mind, though."

"My vision for our country is that we stop blaming one another and protecting our narrow self-interest, but that we work harder together towards building the wonderful potential of our beautiful country. My vision for myself is to contribute positively to the above and to see it happen in my lifetime!" **R**



Photo: Supplied

Edward Kieswetter.

Gemeenskap

Ingang by die Qwaqwa-kampus.

Boontjies en boksies maak Wiskunde en Wetenskap boeiend

Deur Michelle Nöthling

Skool vir Oopleer gebruik herwonne materiaal om kernkonsepte tuis te bring.

“Hoe kry jy ’n kind betrokke by die leerproses? Om voor ’n swartbord te staan betrek nie ’n kind by die leerproses nie. Daarom het onderwysers ekstra materiaal nodig.”

En dit is presies wat die Family Math and Family Science-program wat deel is van die Skool vir Oopleer by ons universiteit voor-sien. R1,4 miljoen se leermateriaal – tonne vragte saamgestel van meestal herwonne huishoudelike produkte. So begin dr Cobus van Breda, direkteur van die program Science-for-the-Future, die verstommende werk verduidelik wat hierdie eenheid verrig.

Tans dien die Family Math and Family Science-program 111 laerskole regoor die Vrystaat asook die Noord- en Oos-Kaap. Die gevolg? Wiskunde en wetenskap wat ’n bron van opwinding vir 219 onderwysers, 11 110 leerders en 4 538 ouers in 2014 geword het. “Die program se missie is om innoverende wiskunde en wetenskap-ondererrig te bevorder,” sê dr Van Breda.

Van koeldrankblikkies tot tandepastaboksies; van toiletrolletjies tot eierhouers, partytjehoedjies, bone en rys word ingespan om kernbegrippe in wiskunde en wetenskap te verduidelik. Konsepte soos getalpatrone, driedimensionaliteit, statistiek, ruimte en vorm kry uitdrukking in die alledaagse. Iets waarin ’n prentjie in ’n boek nie kan slaag nie.

Aan die begin van elke kwartaal word ’n opleidingssessie vir deelnemende onderwysers aangebied. Elke onderwyser ontvang sy eie pakkie aktiwiteitsmateriaal en leerderboekies asook soortgelyke aktiwiteitsmateriaal wat aan die leerders oorhandig moet word. Die leeraktiwiteit is met die nuwe kurrikulum belyn. “Die onderwysers kan hiervandaan af direk in hulle klas instap, die materiaal uitdeel en die aktiwiteit vir die kwartaal met die leerders doen,” sê dr Van Breda.

Die program stop egter nie daar nie. “Ons het ook ouerbetrokkenheid in die program ingebou,” voeg dr Van Breda by. Die opgeleide onderwysers hou ’n ouerwerksessie by die betrokke skool om die ouers/voogde in te lig rondom die konsepte en ook van die nodige leermateriaal te voorsien sodat elke leerder addisionele ondersteuning by die huis kan kry. “Sodoende herhaal die ouers die aktiwiteit wat hul kinders by die skool doen – dit lei dan tot beter leerderprestasie,” sê Elizna Prinsloo, bestuurder van die Family Math & Family Science-program.

Die program maak nie net wiskunde en wetenskap toeganklik nie; dit verander leerders se ingesteldheid oor hierdie vakgebiede. Dit bemagtig nie net onderwysers nie, dit betrek ouers by hul kinders se opvoeding.

En dit alles laat ’n buitewisbare indruk op ons skoolleerlinge en hulle toekoms.



Foto's: Verskaf



Om kinders betrokke te kry by die leerproses, het die Family Math and Family Science-program al R1,4 miljoen se leermateriaal aan onderwysers beskikbaar gestel.

Students help a colleague while learning

By Leonie Bolleurs



Joyce Mohatlane, a single mom with an only child, is employed by the Department of Architecture at the UFS. In 2013 she obtained a vacant stand in Sonskyn, Bloemfontein. Like all low-income families in that area, Joyce had to provide an instant dwelling on the plot.

Hein Raubenheimer, junior lecturer in the Department of Architecture, discussed with his colleagues the possibility of providing Joyce with a more permanent solution than the familiar corrugated iron shed, which has become synonymous with informal settlements in South Africa.

“I undertook the responsibility of dealing with Joyce on a client-architect basis to develop her needs into a design brief that formed the basis of a design-built solution. Working with her I found out that her immediate need is to have a dignified space for living, sleeping and eating,” says Hein.

Joyce approved Hein’s design proposal, which allows for future extensions, whether it is an extra bedroom, enlarging the living space or a bathroom.

“One of our first-year traditions, the annual hut-building project, sparked an idea to construct a dwelling with stabilised earth blocks as a service-learning initiative for architecture students.” Annemarie Wagener initialised a fourth-year Building Science project, whereby groups of student designed a small-scale buildable solution to this problem.

“Following the presentations of the fourth-year student groups, the overall feeling was to make use of as much recycled materials and innovative low technology as possible. This approach, together with sponsored material from the industry will allow this small building to grow and take on its own architectural ‘style’,” says Hein.

Architecture students will be involved in various stages of the construction throughout the year. By incorporating this project with the Building Science curriculum, first- to third-year students will be offered a chance to develop their skills while serving a valued member of the community.

As part of this service-learning initiative Hein worked with Dr Lizette Erasmus, senior lecturer in the Department of Chemistry. This department will be involved with the development of a more environmentally friendly and more cost-effective cementitious material, namely geopolymers.

Dr Erasmus explains, “Kaolin is a naturally occurring clay mineral. After heated to above 400 °C the kaolin is dehydroxylated (removal of water) to form metakaolin. This metakaolin possesses little or no cementitious value. However, alkali activation of this material leads to the formation of a geopolymer, which is a slow-hardening polymer. “The hardening causes the formation of a cementitious material which has a three-dimensional structure. This is unlike the traditional hydraulic binders (like Portland cement), which harden due to the hydration of calcium aluminates and silicates.”



Hein Raubenheimer and Joyce Mohatlane.



Om in **tale** te praat

Deur Cindé Greyling

Vir sommige mense is Philippolis net 'n dorpie iewers in die Vrystaat, maar vir ander is dit 'n plek van 'meertaligheid voor meerkanse'. Susan Lombaard is aan stuur van hierdie projek wat werk, geleenthede en woorde skep.

Susan Lombaard, 'n lektor in die Eenheid vir Taalfasilitering en Bemagtiging, gesels opgewonde oor die MIDP-projek in Philippolis wat deur die Provinsie Antwerpen in België moontlik gemaak is. Hoewel die projek al sedert 1999 deel is van die Eenheid vir Taalfasilitering en Bemagtiging, het hulle veral die laaste

drie jaar (2011-2013) daarop gefokus om meertaligheid in Philippolis te bevorder.

"Ons wou kyk hoe die gemeenskap met meertaligheid omgaan, en oor die verloop van drie jaar het ons vyf tolke opgelei wat almal inwoners van Philippolis is," verduidelik Susan. "Danksy hierdie tolke kan lede van die gemeenskap in enige situasie hulle moedertaal praat, of dit nou by die polisiestasie, munisipaliteit of kliniek is." Ter ondersteuning van die tolkdien is 'n tolkboekie saamgestel. "Terwyl die tolke opgelei is, het hulle woorde versamel waarmee hulle algemeen gekonfronteer word. Ons het dié woorde in Afrikaans, Engels en Sotho in 'n boekie saamgevat. Die tolke gebruik dit as 'n 'woordeboek' en daar is ook plek waar hulle nuwe terme kan neerskryf."

Benewens die tolkdien, is daar in 2013 ook 'n redenaarskompetisie in samewerking met die ATKV (Afrikaanse Taal- en Kultuurvereniging) aangebied waaraan 52 skoolkinder van graad 6 tot 11 deelgeneem het. Dit het aan hulle die kans gegee om voor 'n gehoor op te tree en in hulle moedertaal te redeneer.

Philippolis is egter nie net 'n skatkis van taal nie. Daarom is 'n staproete op die been gebring om hierdie dorpie vir toeriste toeganklik te maak. Die Adam Kok II roete is ongeveer 'n uur en 'n half lank en sluit die volgende punte in: die NG Kerk waar die aanvanklike Griekwa-kerk was, die Griekwa-kanonne, Adam Kok II se huis, die Griekwa-raadsaal en Adam Kok II se kraal. Meertalige inligtingsborde in Afrikaans, Engels en Sotho of Xhosa is by al die punte aangebring. "Ons het ook drie Griekwa-toergidse wat in Philippolis bly, opgelei," sê Susan.


Danksy hierdie projek en al die deelnemers is 'n kosbare dorpie ontsluit en geleenthede vir sy inwoners geskep. 



Foto: Anja Aucamp



Foto's: Verskaf

Ndaba Ntsele:

Inspiring entrepreneurs

By Ilse Smalberger

To simply call Ndaba Ntsele a businessman seems like a bit of an understatement. The Executive Chairman and co-founder of Pamodzi Gold Limited lives and breathes business, entrepreneurship and wealth creation. He is also a member of the UFS Council.

His greatest passion is entrepreneurship and sharing his ideas of self-employment with young (and old) South Africans.


"I preach self-employment wherever I go. Everyone knows that unemployment is a major problem in our country. However, people often expect the government or big corporations to provide them with jobs. I like to influence people to start thinking about working for themselves, thereby creating opportunities for employing others."

"His entrepreneurial drive even extends to his two terms on the UFS Council. During this time, Ndaba has been well placed to get a sense of the kind of contribution the university and its students could make to South Africa, and even further afield."

"In addition to training students for all the other important industries in South Africa, I think the UFS is ideally situated to create agricultural entrepreneurs. The Free State is one of South Africa's prime agricultural areas, after all. Food security is an issue worldwide and it is an area in which we could make a real contribution by training food producers, food technologists and agricultural specialists. In fact, I think the UFS could become the leading agricultural institution in the country."

Being the best is something that he continually strives for and high standards are not something he shirks. In fact, he believes that Council members should hold an institution accountable for maintaining the highest standards possible, whether it is in governance, financials, procurement or any other areas of importance in an institution.

"Being the executive chairman of a multi-billion African-owned group with assets across the globe does not leave Ndaba with a lot of free time. However, he enjoys sitting down with MBA students and graduates to share his views about entrepreneurship."

"If I can change their mindset from 'others must employ me' to 'I need to create my own employment', then I will feel as if I have accomplished something." 

Ndaba Ntsele.

Research

Walkway in the Computer Laboratory on the Bloemfontein Campus.

My main vision in life is to serve my community, says **Prof Conradie**

By Leonie Bolleurs

“Never be in competition with someone else, be in competition with yourselves, with your own goals. To reach a goal, you have to utilise opportunities that come your way. And remember, results speak for themselves.

Any researcher can prove himself/herself this way. However, nothing in life is for free; you need to work very, very hard. This is only possible when you love and enjoy your work.” These are the words of Prof Jeanet Conradie, a professor in Chemistry at the UFS.

She was also this year’s runner-up in the senior category for Distinguished Women Researchers: Physical and Engineering Science in the Department of Science and Technology’s 2014 Women in Science Awards. The Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf) also invited her as member this year.

Science and the conducting of research, through which new concepts are discovered, is her great passion.

Due to this keen interest in science, she studied a variety of different subjects during her undergraduate years, providing her with a wide range of knowledge and the necessary background required for her current main research interest, which is a combination of various scientific fields. She obtained a master’s degree in Physics in 1981, after which she chose to raise her three children before returning to the academic field.

Later she changed her focus area and continued with a PhD degree in Chemistry, which she obtained in March 2000. Her PhD degree in Chemistry and her strong background in Physics, Computer Science, Mathematics and Applied Mathematics influenced her choice of research interest and expertise to develop gradually in the direction of computational chemistry, which is a beautiful combination of chemistry and physics.

Prof Conradie also has a passion to help and teach students. The training and experience the students obtain under her supervision empowers them to be competitive in the national and international arenas.

Her motto in life is, either you make progress in life or you lag behind. She believes that she should develop and use all the talents God gave her. An important motivation for her is the following verses by Helen Steiner Rice (shortened):

Climb ‘til Your Dream Comes True
Often your tasks will be many,
And more than you think you can do –
Often the road will be rugged
And the hills insurmountable, too –

But always remember, the hills ahead
Are never as steep as they seem,
For nothing in life that is worthy
Is ever too hard to achieve

So start out today with Faith in your heart
And “Climb ‘Til Your Dream Comes True”

“My advice to young researchers is to set yourself a dream or a goal. But be realistic. First concentrate on your strongest abilities, have confidence in yourselves and do it step by step.

“For the mothers and fathers, remember, no award can be as important as the love and trust of your children. It is important that your children become independent, accepted and useful members of the community. Therefore, try to be available for your children when they need you, especially when they are small. They will definitely support you in return when you need it,” Prof Conradie concludes. **R**



Prof Jeanet Conradie.

MA in **Bible Translation Management** – unique in the world

By Michelle Nöthling



The first MA Bible Translation Management students are, from the left: Berhanu Kambro (Ethiopia), Antonin Azoti (Togo), Morris Johnson (Solomon Islands), Mick Bandy (Papua New Guinea), Kierien Ekpang (Nigeria), Alan Olsen (Tanzania). Kneeling in front is Sabila Ngania (Kenya).

The UFS is yet again benchmarking itself globally – this time in the field of Bible translation. We are offering a course unique in the world: an MA in Bible Translation Management.

The difference of an MA in Bible Translation Management lies in the fact that this course is custom made for people who manage multiple Bible translation projects for Bible translation organisations. When a project of this kind is launched, an array of supporting activities needs to be managed to ensure a successful end result.

This unique international degree is a qualification in the Faculty of Theology. However, what makes it even more exceptional is the fact that it offers an interdisciplinary experience. Not only does the course draw on the expertise in Theology, but also in Management and the Humanities. In Theology, students study religious studies and culture with Prof Pieter Verster and Dr Maniraj Sukdaven. They also study hermeneutics and either Old Testament with Prof Fanie Snyman or New Testament with Prof Francois Tolmie. The management and leadership module is taught by Prof Kobus Lazenby. Bible translation is taught by Prof Jacobus Naudé and Dr TJ Makutoane, with guest lectures by Dr Kobus Marais and Dr Jean-Claude Loba-Mkole. Linguistics for Bible Translators is taught by Prof Cynthia Miller-Naudé and Prof Jacobus Naudé, with guest lectures by Dr Lynell Zogbo.

Prof Cynthia Miller-Naudé, Head of the Department of Hebrew,

has been closely involved with the development of the course and is the coordinator of the Bible translation programmes. “We were asked by the Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL) International to put together an MA course for their people doing Bible translation management,” Prof Miller-Naudé says. Subsequently, the UFS offered the first contact session for the degree in February 2014. Seven students from across the globe attended, including individuals who are working in Bible translation management in Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Togo, Tanzania, the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea.

Bible translation managers not only coordinate the translation process itself for multiple language groups, but also are usually simultaneously involved with subsidiary projects. In the case of an indigenous language that has not been written down before, an orthography writing system needs to be developed and the grammar and vocabulary included in a dictionary. Often, literacy projects must run alongside the Bible translation project to ensure that people can actually read what is being translated. In addition, the various churches, NGOs and government organisations need to engage in the entire translation process. In other words, Bible translation is a major means of development, especially on the African continent.

In Africa, the development of indigenous languages is a very big project, says Prof Miller-Naudé, and Bible translation – and thus Bible translation management – goes hand in hand with it. **R**

UFS shifts montane research to the front

By Igno van Niekerk



A new collaborative montane initiative, the Afromontane research unit, has been established, located on the Qwaqwa Campus of the UFS.

Try to remember your earliest memories of learning about water. Specifically those lessons that taught you what the source of this irreplaceable resource was. You might remember the teacher telling you about the rich mountain springs; those idyllic places high in the mountains. It seemed like a fairy-tale environment with lots of luscious green shrubs, sparkling fountains and birds singing. Almost too good to be true.

For many reasons the research on high-altitude montane landscapes in South Africa has not been at the forefront of academic concern. If one considers that these montane areas with unique species and ecosystem supply water to the Lowlands, one realises that more attention needs to be paid to these areas, so essential to the survival of our species. For a long time other countries, for example, Lesotho, have been at the forefront of research on the social and agricultural aspects of living in montane areas.

In order to respond to this challenge, a new collaborative montane initiative has been established, located on the Qwaqwa Campus of the UFS. The Afromontane research unit has been established to support research that leads to sustainable development within key sensitive montane areas of the Maloti-Drakensberg mountain ranges of South Africa. There are plans to focus on all aspects of 'montane' in South Africa, although initially the focus will be on the high-altitude areas around QwaQwa.

The programme comprises a five-year plan of work and will raise funds to research and share knowledge that leads to the sustainable management of Southern Africa's montane areas. Collaborative partnerships with international research organisations and montane municipalities around the world will be sought to share knowledge.

In the meantime, several initiatives have been launched where the unit has been cooperating with the private sector to ensure that our precious high-altitude montane environment is conserved.

The Afromontane research unit is making a difference, ensuring that our children will still learn about those "fairy-tale" places high in the mountains.

We are so proud of this unit, which is playing its part to ensure that these wonderful places with their unique species and ecosystems will indeed live happily ever after.

** Presently the unit is managed by a committee of seven members, under the Chairmanship of Prof Oriël Thekisoë, representing eight sub-units, including Environmental studies (Dr G Mukwada), Biodiversity (Dr Aliza le Roux and Dr Jo van As), Ecology and Ethnomedicine (Dr E Sieben and Dr T Ashafa), the Heritage Unit (Prof Willie van Zyl), IT and Mobile Development (Mr R Alfonsi), Humanities (Mr G Magaiza) and Education (Dr N Sebele). **R**

World-class programme for young scientists and researchers hosted at the UFS for a third consecutive year

By René-Jean van der Berg

SA-YSSP is all about research, networking and cultural diversity. For the third consecutive year, about 200 young researchers from around the world will leave their families and friends behind and make Bloemfontein their home for three months to take part in the Southern African Young Scientist Summer Program (SA-YSSP). The UFS will be hosting a third iteration of the programme during the period from 3 November 2014 to 31 January 2015.

The SA-YSSP, organised jointly by the UFS, the South African National Research Foundation, the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis was inspired by the success of IIASA's Young Scientists Summer Program, which has enabled more than 1 720 young scientists to work together with IIASA researchers on problems of global significance since 1977.

The SA-YSSP contributes to the establishment, growth and enhancement of high-level strategic research networks internationally, while at the same time developing capacity in systems analysis at the doctoral and supervisory level through research conducted in the areas of the DST's grand challenges.

Dr Priscilla Mensah, SA-YSSP director, says the UFS recognises that the promotion of high-level strategic international collaborative networks is an important way to facilitate research of global significance.

"Doctoral candidates are given the opportunity to advance their research under the direct supervision of senior scientists from South Africa and the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA). In line with international trends in doctoral education, the SA-YSSP seeks to advance not only the discipline-specific research skills of the young scientists, but also to equip

and expose scholars to an array of additional competencies and skills required to be successful in knowledge-driven societies." Sumbul Fatima, a PhD student in Agricultural Economics and Business Management at the Aligarh Muslim University, in Aligarh, India took part in the 2013 cohort of the SA-YSSP.

With water management (virtual water trade) being her field of expertise, she hopes to come up with a global dimension of water governance system to cope with the challenge of future water and to save mankind from a drastic event like water scarcity.

"The SA-YSSP 2013-14 is a very insightful learning programme and offers innumerable networking opportunities and an exposure to the diversity of young scientists. This is indeed a very beneficial initiative for providing a world-class platform to explore and gain very fruitful outcomes.

"It has also had a very influential impact in my research career and it has proven to be a climax of my academic life, which turned the wheel of destiny to pace towards success and a zenith of accomplishments."

Erkka Rinne from the VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland describes the SA-YSSP as "an experience of a lifetime". His field of expertise is power-system simulation and variable renewable energy integration.

"The time spent in South Africa definitely broadened my world view, and I also gained a bunch of new friends. The diversity of cultures, backgrounds and scientific disciplines made my stay in South Africa very special. I was very happy with my project outcome too."



At the SAYSSP opening and welcoming event were, from the left, front: Prof Ulf Dieckmann, Director: Evolution and Ecology Programme, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA) and SA-YSSP Supervisor; Dr Lis Lange, Vice-Rector: Academic (acting) UFS; Dr Priscilla Mensah, SA-YSSP Director, Postgraduate School, UFS; Prof Mary Scholes, Chair of IIASA's Science Advisory Committee and Director of Postgraduate Affairs, University of the Witwatersrand; Deputy Minister Zanele Magwaza-Msibi, Department of Science and Technology (DST); Dr Gansen Pillay, Deputy-Chief Executive Officer of the Research and Innovation Support and Advancement (RISA) of the National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa; back: Prof André Roodt, SA-YSSP Dean, Department of Chemistry, UFS; Mmampei Chaba, Chief Director: Multilateral and Africa Cooperation, DST; Dr Albert van Jaarsveld, CEO, NRF; Prof Corli Witthuhn, Vice-Rector: Research, UFS and Dr Aldo Stroebe, Executive Director: International Relations and Cooperation, NRF.

Building a heart

– all in a day's work

By René-Jean van der Berg

Imagine a day when a transplantation patient can become his or her own living donor. This thought might not be as farfetched, as our researchers at the UFS Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery are a step closer towards putting together a fully functional heart.

However, before this heart can be built, it needs to be taken apart, using a procedure called decellularisation.

Researchers at the university led by Profs Francis Smit and Pascal Dohmen (extraordinary professor at the UFS from the Charité University in Berlin), have announced that they had successfully decellularised a whole baboon heart – the first in the world.

American and European researchers have used the process of decellularisation to produce rat- and pig-heart scaffolds, but the research team at the university has produced primate heart scaffolds using a decellularisation process developed in the department. This is an important research step, as the baboon is the animal that is genetically the closest to human beings.

“The pioneering work of Drs Doris Taylor and Harald Ott at Minnesota and Harvard Universities is recognised. Dr Taylor has successfully produced the first beating rat heart in the laboratory.”

“We use a modified heart-lung machine circulation system in the whole heart decellularisation process,” explains Prof Smit.

“The process involves washing and cleaning the hearts and then connecting them to the machine, which circulates detergents and enzymes that cause cell death and destruction, with minimal damage to the connective tissue of the heart. After washing and irrigation with normal salt concentration solutions, the hearts are studied.”

Prof Smit explains that it is much more difficult to decellularise large animal organs than, for example, rat hearts. Thus far, the researchers have been able to eliminate more than 90 percent of cells and are now modifying the decellularisation process. The results are in line with other groups working on larger organs.

In order to recellularise the heart scaffolds, specific cell lines from the recipient will have to be cultured. These include endothelial cells, lining the vessels, fibroblasts, involved in maintaining substructures of the heart and, importantly, contracting myocytes. These cell lines can then be introduced to the heart scaffold, using a bioreactor. The researchers have successfully cultured endothelial cells and fibroblasts in the rat model and, by using neonatal rat hearts, have managed to culture living, beating heart cells in the laboratory.


The final step would be to connect the bioengineered heart to the recipient. The implantation can be performed as a fully developed transplanted heart expected to maintain the circulation from the start, or rather, in the researchers' view, using serial modifications of the heterotopic or 'piggyback' transplantation operation described by Prof Chris Barnard as a partially developed heart maturing within the recipient. 



Photo: Stephen Collett

Prof Francis Smit.



Personeel

Voorportaal van die Odeion, Bloemfontein-kampus.

UV verwelkom twee nuwe dekane in die Fakulteite Teologie en Regsgeleerdheid

Deur Michelle Nothling en Mamosa Makaya



Foto verskaf

Prof Caroline Nicholson is in Skotland gebore en het as jong kind na Suid-Afrika gekom. Sy het haar BProc- en LLB-graad aan die Universiteit van die Witwatersrand verwerf en het haar leerkontrak by Chernin's in Hyde Park Corner, Johannesburg, voltooi. Prof Nicholson is in 1986 as prokureur en notaris tot die destydse Hooggereghof van Suid-Afrika toegelaat.

In 1986 het sy by die Universiteit van Suid-Afrika (UNISA) aangesluit as dosent, waar sy gebly het tot 1999. Gedurende hierdie tyd het sy 'n LLM in Bankreg en 'n LLD in Vergelykende Konflik van Wette – wat op internasionale kinderontvoering deur ouers fokus, voltooi. In dieselfde jaar het sy verskuif na die Fakulteit Regsgeleerdheid aan die Universiteit van Pretoria, waar sy vir die afgelope vyftien jaar gewerk het. In 2003 het sy 'n nagraadse diploma in Alternatiewe Geskilbeslegting (ADR) voltooi en haar belangstelling in ADR, veral binne die konteks van Familiereg, duur voort.

Prof Nicholson het talle artikels en navorsings-aanbiedings oor 'n verskeidenheid regsonderwerpe die lig laat sien. Haar belangrikste belangstellingsveld is egter regsopleiding en kinderreg. Sy is sowel nasionaal as internasionaal bekend vir haar navorsingsbydraes.

Prof Fanie Snyman het in 1984 by die universiteit aangesluit as senior dosent in die Departement Ou Testament. Sy loopbaan het 'n bestendige opwaartse neiging getoon sodat hy in die volgende jaar bevorder is tot professor en hoof van die departement. Op 1 Julie 2013 het prof Snyman die bykomende rol as waarnemende dekaan van die fakulteit bygekry.

As dekaan het hy 'n duidelike visie van akademiese leierskap daargestel, met vier belangrike fokusareas: navorsing, onderrig en leer, internasionalisering en plaaslike betrokkenheid.

Hy is die outeur van agt boeke en het 'n bydrae gelewer tot sewe internasionale en twaalf nasionale boeke. Hy het nege artikels in internasionale vaktydskrifte en nog ongeveer 60 in geakkrediteerde vaktydskrifte gepubliseer.


Prof Snyman is van voorneme om personeellede byeen te bring om grondige herooring te skenk aan en die fakulteit te herposisioneer wat betref identiteit, transformasie en die pad vorentoe. "Ons leef in 'n komplekse wêreld wat gekenmerk word deur onsekerheid en voortdurende verandering. Dit vereis komplekse, maar ook innoverende oplossings," sê hy. 



Foto verskaf

UV-akademikus beleef sterk groei in navorsingsuitsette

Deur Leonie Bolleurs

Sedert sy aanstelling in die Sarchi-leerstool, was daar 'n skerp toename in die aantal referate en publikasies deur prof Hendrik Swart, Senior Professor in die Departement Fisika aan die UV. Vanaf Januarie vanjaar het hy reeds 78 artikels gepubliseer. Van die joernale waarin hy onlangs gepubliseer het, sluit in:

- Nanotechnology (impak van 3.67)
- Dalton transactions (impak van 4.097)
- Sensors and Actuators B: Chemical (impak 3.84)

"My grootste sukses is egter die sterk groep navorsers wat ons oor die jare opgebou het. Personeel, postdoks en studente – sonder hulle sou dit onmoontlik gewees het. Ek is dus baie aan my groep verskuldig op sowel die Bloemfontein- as Qwaqwa-kampus.

"Die goeie apparaat wat ons via 'n borgskap van die Nasionale Navorsingstigting en Sasol kon bekom, is ook van die belangrikste redes daarvoor. Die finansiële ondersteuning wat ek van die universiteit se navorsingskantoor ontvang, dra natuurlik ook daartoe by," sê hy.

Prof Swart doen al vir die afgelope 20 jaar navorsing oor enige stof wat gloei. "Ek pas net die fokus daarvan aan om by die hedendaagse tendense te pas," sê hy.

Hy glo sy navorsing dra by tot die fundamentele kennis van fosfors en die opleiding van goeie studente vir die akademiese en industriële wêreld daarbuite. Vir die man op straat beteken sy navorsing beter en helderder ligte wat energiebesparend is.

Sy meer onlangse navorsing fokus op die ontwikkeling van nanofosfors vir liggewende diodes (LEDs) en organiese liggewende diodes (OLED) (light-emitting diodes en organic light-emitting diodes).

Prof Swart het ook al regoor die wêreld referate oor sy navorsing gelewer – nasionaal en ook sover as in lande in Europa en die Ooste. Van die mees onlangse referate wat hy en van sy kollegas/nagraadse studente gelewer het, sluit in:

- *Applications of AES, XPS and TOF SIMS to phosphor materials* by die 15de Europese Konferensie oor Toepassings van Oppervlak- en Tussenvlakanalise in 2013 in Forte Village Resort, Sardinië, Italië.
- *Luminescent properties of phosphor nano thin films* by die eerste Internasionale Simposium oor Nanodeeltjies/Nanomateriale en Toepassings in Caparica (Lissabon, Portugal) waar hy 'n genooide spreker was.
- *Role of surface and deep-level defects on the emission of nano metal oxides* by die NanoAfrica 2014 internasionale konferensie in Vanderbijlpark, Suid-Afrika, waar hy die hoofrede gelewer het.
- *PHI systems and their modifications at KOVSIES* by die PHI Europese Gebruikersvergadering in Ismaning (München), Duitsland, waar hy genooi is om te praat.
- Hy het ook die programrede gelewer by die SETCOR Internasionale Konferensie oor Slim Materiale en Oppervlaktes in Bangkok, Thailand. Sy lesing was getitel *Role of surface and deep-level defects on the emission and degradation of phosphor materials*. 



Prof Hendrik Swart.

Photo: Merwelene van der Merwe



Photo: Igno van Niekerk

It is **passion** that keeps Samson in tune

By Igno van Niekerk

Samson Diamond.

As you climb the stairs to Room 201 in the Odeion on the Bloemfontein Campus, there is a sense of serenity. When you pause in front of the door, you hear the beautiful sound of music building to a crescendo. You do not want to knock, as you feel you might disturb the harmony. Inside, the Odeion string quartet is practising.

Samson Diamond was barely nine years old when his parents told him to find a way to stay off the streets in Soweto. He was not that keen on soccer. One day he saw a few men carrying instruments into a building and he followed them. Little did Samson know that his life would never be the same again. The little boy picked up a violin and started fiddling around. The tentative notes became music, and the music became a life.

From a little boy, picking up a violin in Soweto, Samson travelled the musical stages of the world. It started with free lessons at the African Youth Ensemble. Soon, Samson would find himself studying at the National School of Arts and then a bursary to study in Manchester. What was supposed to be only an honours degree ended in Samson completing a master's degree. At the time, Samson was playing with the top British orchestras in London and Manchester. In 2009, Samson decided to return to South Africa. One questions why, and Samson's answer is clear and concise, "The UK was a phenomenal experience, but it wasn't quite home."

In 2010 Samson was awarded the prestigious Standard Bank Young Artist prize, kick-starting his continued career in South Africa in the best possible way. He was freelancing for various orchestras, and eventually became the second violinist in the Johannesburg Philharmonic orchestra. When the orchestra struggled financially, Samson applied and auditioned for the position of first violinist at the Odeion String Quartet.

The notes fell in the right places. Once again he found himself in a wonderful symphony of excellence.

Within a whirlwind 18 months, the Odeion String Quartet has, under Samson's leadership, been to the International Festival of Arts in Harare, held concerts in Belgium, Switzerland and Germany and found the time to record a CD with short pieces of classical music, aptly titled Bits and Pieces.

One wonders how Samson keeps up the pace without losing rhythm, harmony or sanity. He shares that Skype helps him to keep in touch with his family who have settled well in Bloemfontein. In his new home he finds the DIY work refreshing and mind-cleansing. He smiles when he mentions that a violinist has to be very careful when handling a hammer. "You can damage your career."

When I am about to leave, I ask to take a picture. Samson willingly picks up the violin. He does not pretend to play. He plays. And even after I have finished, the music does not stop. You see, Samson Diamond's gift to the UFS is not only knowledge, experience and education. It is passion. A passion which becomes a tune that keeps on playing in your head long after you have left his office in the Odeion. **R**

Musiek-app vir selfone uit UV se stal

Deur Coreli Roos

"Musiekonderwysers moet die heeldyd aanpas." Met 23 jaar se onder-rigervaring, kén dr Frelet de Villiers die uitdagings. "Die grootste frustrasie is dat studente nie hul note ken nie." Haar visie is om musiekonderrig deur die beste leermetodes te optimaliseer. Dit het tot verdere innoverende denke gelei nadat sy in 2010 haar PhD verwerf, en in 2011 by die UV se Odeion Skool vir Musiek (OSM) aangesluit het waar sy 'n dosentpos aangebied is.

Notes&Fun, 'n interaktiewe musiek-app vir selfone wat tans ontwikkel word, is haar breinkind.

Dr De Villiers werk reeds twee jaar aan haar konsep. Sy het die waarde raakgesien om selfoontechnologie vir klavieronderrig te gebruik. "Kinders is mal oor tegnologie. Elkeen het deesdae 'n selfoon of 'n tablet." Notes&Fun het helder kleure. Dis ontwerp vir Android-toestelle en vir gebruik by gewone klaviere.

Die eerste ontwikkeling is daarop gemik om alle musiekbeginnerse te help om hul note te leer, terwyl fase twee met ritmiese patrone sal help. Sodra dit finansiële haalbaar is, sal Notes&Fun ook vir Apple-produkte aangepas word. Hierdie opvoedkundige app is die enigste met onmiddellike terugvoer.

Die skerm wys dadelik as 'n verkeerde noot gespeel word. Dit vertoon daarna die regte noot en gee 'n aanmoedigingsboodskap om voort te gaan. Opspringskerms in die hoek voorsien bykomende teoretiese kennis, terwyl telbord-rekordhouding 'n pret-element waarborg. Gebruikers sal hul tellings op 'n Facebook-forum kan pos en teen hulself of ander kan meeding. Die Innovasie en Besigheidsontwikkelingspan van die UV se Direkoraat Navorsingsontwikkeling rugsteun haar met haar ontwikkeling wat in samewerking met Maxxor, die Kaapse maatskappy wat Woolworths se apps-ontwikkeling

doen, geskied. Dr De Villiers gaan die prysgeld wat sy in Junie vanjaar gewen het toe sy derde was in die EnterPRIZE-kompetisie se mees innoverende konsep-kategorie, vir ontwikkelingskoste aanwend. Haar EnterPRIZE-prys sluit 'n mentorskapprogram in. "Iemand uit die sakewêreld is aangestel om my ontwikkeling te help vestig. Hulle gee dus nie net die geld en dan is jy op jou eie nie."

Die voorgename vrystelling is in Desember 2014 op die sosiale media. Met haar planne om Notes&Fun internasionaal te bemark, betree sy daarmee ook die sakewêreld as entrepreneur. **R**



Foto: Anja Aucamp

Dr Frelet de Villiers.

New head of school driven by enthusiasm

By René-Jean van der Berg

Any manager can draw up a perfect 10-point plan, but it takes a brave leader to bring that plan to fruition.

With just a few months in office, Prof Alan St Clair Gibson, the new head of the School of Medicine, came with his perfect plan for the school and has already started implementing it.

Prof St Clair Gibson 10-point plan is clearly written on the white noticeboard in his office, just in case he loses focus.

"That is my 'to-do' list," he points out, indicating that it is not just a plan, but something that needs to be done.

Topping his to-do list is staff development, community-based education for healthcare practitioners and bringing expert knowledge back to South Africa – more specifically to the UFS.

"If staff at the school is unhappy, it would mean that I am not successful in my position. Being a manager is all about the human dynamic. Medicine is about the human dynamic," he explains.

Prof St Clair Gibson raises one of his main concerns, which also addresses public healthcare in South Africa.

"We have too little expertise in primary healthcare. This problem can be overcome by having more doctors in the community and rural areas without affecting hospitals and the secondary healthcare system."

It is for this reason that Prof St Clair Gibson is looking at


development structures to have more and better community-based education (CBE) for the School of Medicine. He highlights the pivotal role of the Free State Department of Health (DoH) in ensuring a good CBE structure.

"The Free State DoH provides us with a very important training platform. We will continue to work very closely as a team and keep on building closer relations."

"Another concern of Prof St Clair Gibson is the current knowledge gap in South African medicine."

"We have trained a few excellent medical professionals that have left the country. We now have the older generation, who will soon be retiring and we have young professionals. What about the group that is already practising and have also gained valuable experience by working abroad? We have to get them back."

Nonetheless, he is positive that he will be able to lure them to the UFS.

"I don't think I am brave. I am just excited about life, adventurous and positive." 

Prof St Clair Gibson 10-point plan:

1. Staff development – develop leadership courses for staff at different career stages.
2. Put in place both a staff and student mentorship scheme.
3. Development of a research structure, profile and output.
4. Develop clinical training platform enhancement plans.
5. Broaden the community-based education programme.
6. Develop a sustainable financial model for the school with increased revenue streams.
7. Optimise line management and staff appraisal structures.
8. Refine the school management structures and enhance the relationship with the DoH.
9. Develop staff and management succession planning in collaboration with the DoH.
10. Improve the marketing and branding of the school and relationship with external partners and stakeholders.



Prof Alan St Clair Gibson.

Photo: Anja Aucamp

UFS hosts **world summit** in International Year of Crystallography

By Leonie Bolleurs



Photos: Marija Zbacnik

Some of the keynote speakers and chairpersons at the third world summit in the International Year of Crystallography (in Africa) were, from the left, front: Profs Abdelmalek Thalal (Morocco), Prosper Kanyankogote (University of Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo); Habib Bougzala (Tunisia), Santiago Garcia-Granda (IUCr, University Oviedo, Spain), Michele Zema (IYCr 2014, Italy/UK) and Dr Jean-Paul Ngome-Abiaga (UNESCO, Paris, France); back: Dr Thomas Auf der Heyde (Acting Director-general, South African Department of Science and Technology); Dr Petrie Steynberg (SASOL) and Prof André Roodt (UFS, host).

The third world summit in the International Year of Crystallography (in Africa) was hosted by Prof André Roodt, Head of the Department of Chemistry and President of the European Crystallographic Association, at the University of the Free State in Bloemfontein.



Icon scientists Luigi Nassimbeni and Jan Boeyens were honoured at the summit. From the left, front are: Profs André Roodt (UFS), Luigi Nassimbeni (UCT), Jan Boeyens (UP); back: Profs Susan Bourne (UCT), Peter Comba (Heidelberg, Germany) and Demi Levendis (WITS).



Dr Marija Zbacnik from Croatia at one of the posters presented at the summit.

The Pan-African Meeting of the International Year of Crystallography consisted of a congress and summit. Present at the event was, among others, Dr Thomas Auf der Heyde, the acting Director-General of the Department of Science and Technology; Dr Gansen Pillay, the acting CEO of the National Research Foundation; Dr Jean-Paul Ngome-Abiaga (Paris, France), the UNESCO Vice-Director for Science Extension; Prof Santiago Garcia-Granda (Oviedo, Spain), the representative of the Executive Committee for the International Union of Crystallography (IUCr) and Prof Michele Zema (Pavia, Italy), the IYCr2014 project manager of the IUCr, Prof Prosper Kayankogote, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Profs Abdelmalek Thalal and Habib Bougzala, the presidents of the Moroccan and Tunisian Crystallographic Associations.


The meeting saw 42 research groups being present from 32 universities across 22 countries.

Numerous crystallographic research areas were covered, including powder diffraction,

small molecule crystallography, biological crystallography, industrial crystallography, surface crystallography, as well as techniques such as electron microscopy and synchrotron work.

Highlights of the event included a Declaration to different organisations containing an appeal to support crystallography and science across Africa, as well as the establishment of a steering committee for an African Crystallographic Association.

The United Nations declared 2014 as the International Year of Crystallography. It was recently officially opened at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris, France, by the Secretary General of the UN, Ban Ki-moon.

The International Year of Crystallography was celebrated by a large number of activities across the world, which included recognition to the centennial work of Max von Laue and the father and son, William Henry and William Laurence Bragg. More generally, it celebrates what crystallography can do for humanity – which proves to be significant. 

Education is the key to a financially stable society

By Mamosa Makaya

In the field of financial planning, which often entails handling client financial portfolios, having a strong educational background is very important. Dr Alsemgeest believes in placing the client's welfare first and that continuous professional development is paramount.

Dr Liezel Alsemgeest is a lecturer at the Centre for Financial Planning Law. She started her career at the Department of Business Management in 2005 as a research assistant with a great interest in finance. Dr Alsemgeest's teaching focus is on Economics in Financial Planning. She is also responsible for the research unit of the centre.

In her master's and postdoctoral research she focused on the socio-economic aspects of finance, specifically how people plan

their finances, the levels of financial literacy and practices among the general population of South Africa. She observed that people relate to money in completely different ways and often the problem is perpetuated by a society that is not strong in maths and accountancy. Her research interests do not end there. She wants to do more research on how psychological and emotional issues affect people's relationship with money.

Her career at the UFS has been fruitful in more areas than just research. She finds teaching young people to be the most fulfilling. "Every student in my class wants a bright future. They want to learn and become successful," says Dr Alsemgeest. She believes that education can bridge the gap in people's understanding of finances and in growing a financially more stable society. She is currently exploring how people who find discussing financial problems as taboo end up failing to save enough for the future.


The Financial Planner magazine hailed Dr Alsemgeest as one of the top young professionals under the age of 35 making waves in the financial planning industry. 



Photo: Sonia Small

Dr Liezel Alsemgeest.



Students

South Campus, Bloemfontein.

A new intravarsity

made at Kovies

By Stefan Lotter

Sport, innovation, culture and fun


The battle of the campuses took place at the UFS over a weekend in August when the Bloemfontein Campus hosted their Qwaqwa counterparts for the 2014 Intravarsity.

This year came with some very welcome twists to the competition. With the theme, 'Made at Kovies', the programme included some new and innovative activities.

For those who were up to out-of-the-box physical challenges there were Gladiator games hosted at Vishuis. This resulted in loads of competitive fun and entertainment. On a less physical side this year also welcomed the Kovie Gaming League into varsity competition by presenting an electronic sports tournament where students 'took to the field' in a digital gaming environment.

Furthermore, the Ultimate Frisbee tournament also brought a new dimension to the Intravarsity while a Women's Day Fun Run was also incorporated to attract more support. Yet, it was not only

in the sporting arenas where this year's Intravarsity truly made its mark at Kovies. Yes, the usual codes like soccer, volleyball, basketball, chess and table tennis still took place, but this year's event added a mix of culture too.

The first evening of Intravarsity hosted a Kovie United Music Festival, which was well supported as a healthy and safe social environment where students could enjoy themselves. The weekend also saw some debating take place between our two campuses. Finally, to conclude a well-rounded student-centred weekend, the Kovie Sêr finals took place on the Saturday night. Even though the Qwaqwa Campus did not compete in the Sêr, their music group called Unspoken delivered a powerful guest performance at the finals. 

This format of inter-campus competition might become a norm in the near future for both the intra- and intervarsity events at Kovies.



Photos: Johan Roux



Students fly their flag at **Stanford University's Sophomore College**

By Ifa Tshishonge

Six students from the university were selected to attend a three-week seminar at Stanford University's Sophomore College. The Stanford Sophomore College (SoCo) is an immense learning experience where participants attend classes, explore Stanford, go on field trips and attend organised events.

The students were spread across different sessions. They attended the following courses:

- Sebatso Makafane (Nursing), Vuyisile Kubeka (BA Media Studies and Journalism) and Philip Kitsopoulos (BCom Law) – the New Millennium Mix: Crossings of Race and Culture course.
- Ulrich Kirsten (Medicine) – the Resistance Writings in Nazi Germany course.
- Kaylene Pillay (Psychology) – the Ghost Stories: Why the Dead Return and What they Want From Us course.
- Stephan Erasmus (Medicine) – the Responses to the AIDS Epidemic course.

As each of the students individually had high expectations of the programme, they shared some of their experiences:

"My highest expectation was to see the manner in which they view the world and its challenges regarding education.

This was motivated by being a 21st-Century thinker and not a dimensional thinker. I now have an open mind to a different campus approach and I have the opportunity to implement those approaches that are applicable here in my current Residence Committee 2014/2015 (RC Academics) term and beyond residential boundaries at all the Kopsie campuses at large," says Ulrich.

Stephan says, "It was an enormous academic and social learning experience. It was an eye-opener working with Stanford University and Oxford University students, to see their level of ethics regarding their work. I look forward to developing programmes such as the First Things First campaign and Transformers, which is aimed at eliminating the stigma within society regarding HIV and Aids."

"I had not been to the United States before. I was looking forward to a whole new experience, being outside the African continent. It was an unbelievable intellectual stretch for me. It made me realise the truth the Vice-Chancellor and Rector, Prof Jonathan Jansen tried to foster in me in the UFS101 module about being an informed academic beyond my chosen course," Sebatso says.

The UFS cohort said that they were honoured to be selected to fly the Kopsies flag high in such an environment. **B**



Photo: Ifa Tshishonge

From the left are: Philip Kitsopoulos (BCom Law), Sebatso Makafane (Nursing), Kaylene Pillay (Psychology), Vuyisile Kubeka (BA Media and Journalism); back: Ulrich Kirsten (Medicine) and Stephan Erasmus (Medicine).

New technology **enhances** medical emergency services

By Mamosa Makaya

Marlize Holtzhausen's mobile app receives top honours from Google. Technology is central to making medical emergency services easy and accessible, innovation that could save many lives. Rapid Response is a mobile application for use in emergency situations. The application allows a mobile phone to be used as a panic button that contacts emergency services and notifies the family of the user.

"The app, created by Marlize and co-founded by Gerrit Cloete, was selected as one of 10 South African technology start-ups in the Swiss South African Business Development Programme under the auspices of the Swiss South African Joint Research Programme."

Marlize, a final-year Business Management and Leadership student at the UFS Business School, received the first prize at the Google pitching competition in Zurich, Switzerland earlier

this year. She believes that a great product is the key to the success of any start businesses.

Since the launch of the app in July 2014, it has had over 400 downloads and is arousing interest in Europe and the US. The app is already in use in Southern and East Africa. Marlize attributes her success to good teamwork. On her return from Switzerland, she was invited to present the app in Parliament and has received great media interest. **B**



Photo: Anja Aucamp

Marlize Holtzhausen.

Dié dokter doen méér

Deur Gerrie van Eeden

“Ek het my hele lewe lank nog goed buite die normale aangepak en dit stimuleer my. Ek glo nie dat ’n mens net ’n kenner op een gebied moet wees nie en as jy werklik ’n impak wil maak, moet jy by soveel as moontlik strukture jou sê kan sê.”

’n Voormalige student aan die UV, Michael van Niekerk, was lid van Golden Key, het al as primarius van Medix diens gedoen en ook op die SR gedraai. Dit is maar net die begin van hierdie belowende jongman se storie.

Michael het as mediese student en lid van verskeie studente-organisasies Kowsies en Suid-Afrika al in meer as twintig lande verteenwoordig. Tans is hy die voorsitter van die UV-tak van SAMSA (South African Medical Students Association) en die ondervoorsitter van die nasionale liggaam waarvan hy ’n stigterslid is.

Nadat SAMSA deel geword het van IFMSA (International Federation of Medical Students Association) – die grootste studente-organisasie in die wêreld – is Michael gevra om die UV en SAMSA by die IFMSA-kongres in Tunisië te verteenwoordig.

Daar het hy skouers geskuur met van die top persone in die internasionale mediese arena, soos die hoof van die Wêreld Mediese Organisasie en ook die vorige voorsitter van die Wêreldgesondheidsorganisasie. Na die kongres het hy die UAEM-konferensie in Switserland bygewoon. Die Universities Allied for Essential Medicines mik daarna om die patentering van noodsaaklike medisyne in Afrika beter te bestuur en ook om die navorsing van afgeskepte siektes te bevorder.

Michael is ook uitgenooi om die Brightest Young Minds-spitsberaad in Gauteng by te woon. Daar het hy saam met 99 ander jongmense vir ’n naweek koppe bymekaar gesit. Die Brightest Young Minds-spitsberaad word jaarliks aangebied, waar die belowendste jongmense tussen 20 en 32 die geleentheid gegun word om met gelykes en industrieleiers saam te werk om hul groei tot voordeel van die land te bevorder.

Tussendeur is hy ook besig as een van ’n handjievol studente-outeurs van regoor die wêreld met die skryf van die *Global Health Textbook* wat algemene punte aanspreek wat enige mediese student regoor die wêreld kan aantref.

Na afloop van sy studies en internskappe beoog Michael om aansoek te doen vir die Rhodes Scholarship by Oxford Universiteit en moontlik te spesialiseer in traumachirurgie, neurochirurgie of kardiotorakschirurgie.

Duidelik is daar steeds plek vir nóg hooi op sy vurk. **B**



Photo: Anja Aucamp

Jason Viviers.



Photo: Anja Aucamp

Perfumer on winning streak

By Alzane Narrain

Paloma Picasso once said a perfume is like a piece of clothing, a message, a way of presenting oneself, a costume ... that differs according to the woman who wears it.

For local perfumer Jason Viviers this is evident as he creates signature perfumes to cater for individual desires.

Jason recently won the prize for the Best Young Entrepreneur in the Free State in the Job Creation Challenge that was launched by the Department of Tourism and Environmental Affairs (Detea), the Small Enterprise Development Agency (Seda) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) this year.

This perfumer operates his perfume business from the City of Roses and believes everyone has the ability to appreciate fine fragrance; it is just a matter of effort.

Jason says a woman's perfume should reflect more than just her personality. "If a fragrance makes you happy, it will reflect in your posture and mood."

Perfume is the most intense form of memory for him and it takes him back to his childhood in his hometown Weza, in KwaZulu-Natal.

"I have always had a fascination with scent. I remember how smells from my childhood imprinted on my memory such as the oak tree I used to play under or the vanilla essence my mom

used for her baking. To this day smelling a pleasant fragrance would take me back on a journey through time."

Jason realised there was a market for perfume when he was at a festival market and saw someone selling generic perfumes. Subsequently, he started researching it on the internet.

He explains that creating perfume is like a good wine; it takes training of your senses to fully appreciate and identify all the different elements.

“Jason’s dream is for his perfume to be recognised among the top brands such as Paco Rabanne and Chanel.”

The perfume-making process can take anything from a few days to months.

This perfumer has over 75 ingredients that he uses to mix perfumes, ranging from Arabian sandalwood to strawberry shortcake. He starts by blending aromatic oils together and then combines it with a perfume compound, which makes the perfume evaporate better and smell stronger. **B**

Michael van Niekerk.

The fellowship of developing leaders

By Stefan Lotter

The university is a place where learners become leaders.

Therefore the UFS gives first-year students international exposure to top universities worldwide through the F1 Leadership for Change Programme (F1L4C) aiming to stimulate the establishment of a new campus culture with student relations across boundaries.

More recently there has been an establishment of an F1 Fellowship (F1F) group. This fellowship was founded by 2012 F1L4C graduate, Izak Scholtz. The reason for starting the fellowship was based on the fact that most F1L4C members graduate from the programme and have no other outlet to share the leadership skills they have learnt to enable them to enrich the campus and community at large.

Thus, the F1F is an association that is aimed at sustaining the initiative of the F1L4C programme and to continue the ties the programme has developed with members of the initiative. Yet, the association is more an alumni association than a student-based association. It is a future link between developing leaders that will one day find themselves in the corporate world at large.

But what does the F1F do exactly?

F1F helps mentor new F1L4C members to be better leaders. The fellowship also aims to achieve social change in students who did not have the opportunity to form part of the F1L4C programme through engagement and active student participation.

Furthermore, F1F wants to have an impact on the student community of the UFS and the broader community of the Free State – particularly Bloemfontein – through community outreach and service. The F1F also liaises with the Director of Student Life, the Director of Special Projects and the Dean of


Student Affairs on all issues concerning the F1L4C programme and student life on the UFS campuses.

The latest F1F initiative happens annually and is called the Winter WonderBox project. It entailed the collection of boxes that contain a blanket, beanie or gloves, a toy and some sweets from staff, students and the public to distribute to needy children across Bloemfontein. This year the box collection was distributed to the Tweetoring Kerk (Towers of Hope) and at Parkweg Educational Centre – which offers meals, showers and clothing for homeless children.

So, who is or who can be a part of the F1F?

First of all, there are the ordinary members. All members of the F1L4C programme who have travelled abroad, graduated from the programme and have received status as approved by the board and executive, the Dean of Student Affairs and the Director of Special Projects are invited to join the F1F, provided that they pay their membership fees and adhere to the regulations.

The board and executive may also grant membership to members who graduated from the programme but have never travelled abroad or members who did not graduate or travel abroad but were pre-selected for the F1L4C programme and therefore do not qualify for membership.

The board and executive may – on the basis of nominations submitted to it – also grant honorary membership to any person who associates himself or herself in a meritorious way with the F1L4C and the UFS. 

For more information, contact:

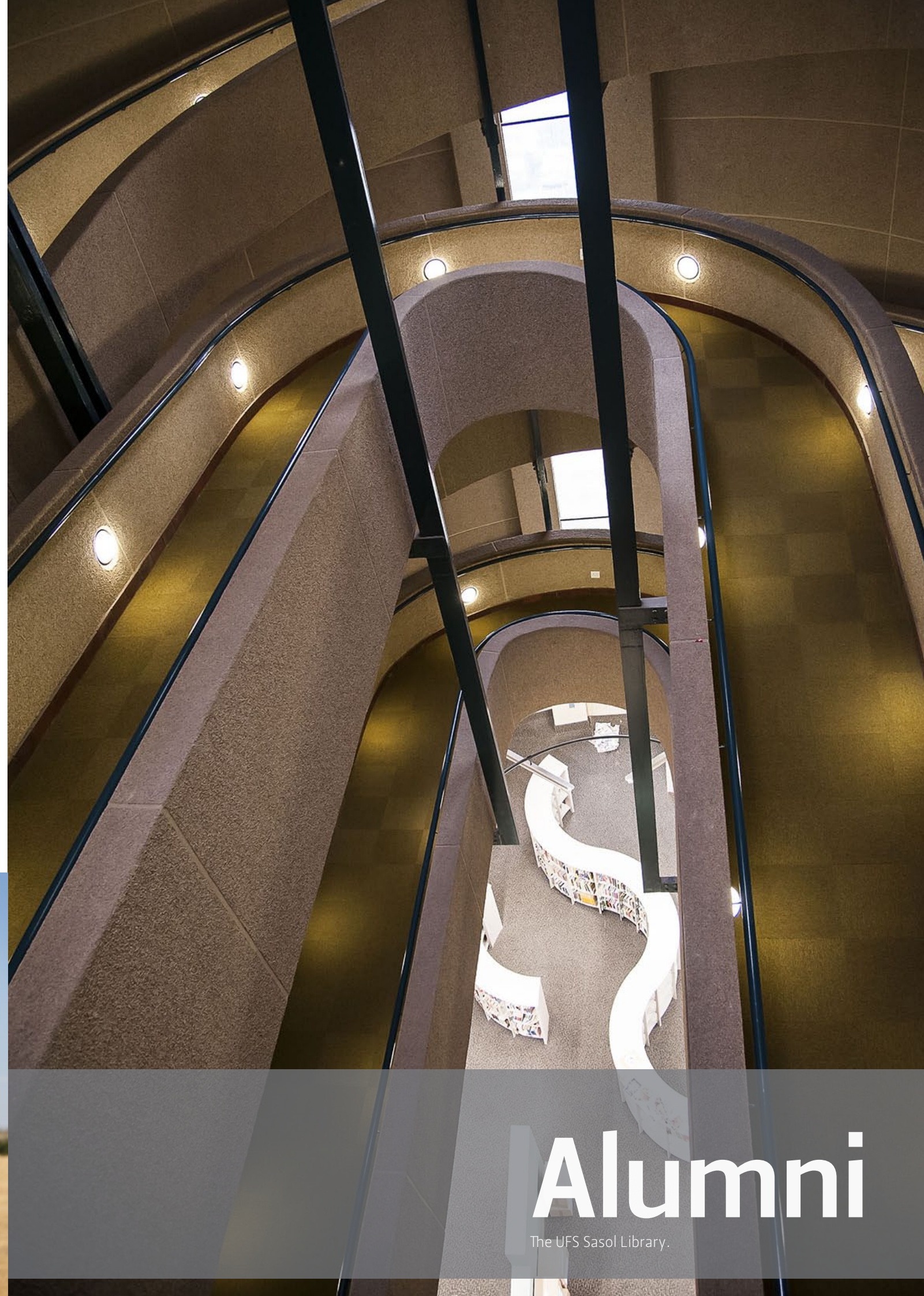
Email: f1fellowshipufs@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/F1FellowshipUFS>

Twitter: [@F1F_UFS](https://twitter.com/F1F_UFS)



Izak Scholtz.



Alumni

The UFS Sasol Library.

Alumni is advertensiebord van 'n universiteit, glo Pieter

Deur Ilse Smalberger

'n Universiteit se alumni behels baie meer as net reünies, e-posse en versoeke vir skenkings en donasies. Alumni is 'n universiteit se hartklop en daarom is die doeltreffende bestuur daarvan uiters belangrik.

Pieter du Toit is sedert 2011 die voorsitter van die Kovsie Alumni-vereniging en werk baie hard vir sy oudstudente. Hy word bygestaan deur 'n uitvoerende komitee, wat tydens die Alumni-vereniging se algemene jaarvergadering verkies word. As voorsitter verteenwoordig hy die alumni ampshalwe by funksies en ander sake.

Om die spreekbuis vir duisende alumni te wees, is nie maklik nie, maar dis 'n taak wat Pieter met trots verrig, veral omdat hy vas glo dat daar vir elke alumnus 'n plek en 'n rol by die universiteit te speel is.

“Ons het 'n tyd gelede meer klem begin lê op belangegroepie binne die alumni. Belangegroepie kan bestaan uit oudstudente van 'n fakulteit, soos mediese of regs-alumni; 'n skool soos MBA-alumni; 'n koshuis, soos by die bond vir oud-Vishuismanne; of ander groepe, soos oud-SR-voorsitters of die Alumni Voices, wat uit oudkoorlede bestaan. Daar is vir elke groep wat wil affilieer die geleentheid om dit te doen, solank hulle die grondwet van die Kovsie Alumni-vereniging onderskryf en nie in teenstelling met die gees van die UV of alumni optree nie.”

Pieter het in 1987 aan die UV begin studeer en was vir vyf jaar 'n inwoner van Vishuis. In 1990 het hy 'n BSc-graad in Fisika en Toegepaste Wiskunde verwerf. In 2002 het hy 'n MMedSc in Mediese Fisika voltooi en in 2003 'n MBA. Hy is tans besig met 'n PhD-graad in Mediese Fisika. Deesdae is hy deel van 'n kerngeneeskundige praktyk in Bloemfontein met vier takke in die Vrystaat en Noord-Kaap. Hy hanteer die mediese fisika en stralingsbeskermingsaspekte van die behandeling, asook die algemene bestuur van die groep.



Foto: Verskaf

Pieter du Toit.

Alumni-sake lê hom egter baie na aan die hart. Hy glo alumni is die advertensiebord van 'n universiteit en dat ander instansies deur middel van sy alumni kan sien wat die kwaliteit van onderrig en navorsing aan 'n universiteit is.

“Ons wil alumni met bepaalde vaardighede of ondervinding aanmoedig om die departemente waar hulle studeer het te kontak en hulle kennis met die studente, en selfs die personeel te kom deel. Dit bou kapasiteit en verbreed die potensiaal van studente. Dit is maar een manier waarop alumni meer betrokke by die universiteit kan raak.”

Hy is ook baie bewus van die rol wat alumni in die bestuur van die UV speel, en neem hierdie verantwoordelikheid baie ernstig op. Alumni beklee drie plekke op die UV Raad en as voorsitter dien hy op die bestuur van die Kovsie-Alumni Trust. Hy word ook dikwels genader om op 'n ad hoc-wyse by ander UV-komitees betrokke te wees en daar word gereeld gesprek met die President van die Konvokasie, Raadsvoorsitter en UV-topbestuur gevoer.

Dit is duidelik dat Pieter 'n passie vir die universiteit het en as voorsitter van die alumni ten volle aan sy taak toegewyd is.

“My visie is dat elke alumnus steeds op die UV-kampus sal welkom voel,” sê hy. **B**

Dr Sheila Aronstam ontvang Oud-Kovsie van die Jaar-toekenning

Deur Leonie Bolleurs

Die Kantoor vir Institutionele Bevordering aan die UV het tien persone by vanjaar se Kovsie Alumni-dinee vereer. Dr Sheila Aronstam het die Oud-Kovsie van die Jaar-toekenning ontvang.

Dr Aronstam het voorheen vir agt jaar in die UV-bestuur gedien, waar sy op die voorgrond was met die transformasie van die UV. In 2004, tydens die eeufeesvieringe van die UV, het dr Aronstam 'n eeufeesmedalje ontvang vir haar bydrae tot transformasie.

“Sy het ook vir vyf jaar op die Raad en Bestuurskomitee van die UV gedien.”

In 2014, ná 'n leeftyd se toewyding tot Bloemfontein en die universiteit, is dr Aronstam deur Kovsie Alumni as Oud-Kovsie van die Jaar vereer. “Haar nalatenskap van gelykheid, verdraagsaamheid en welwillendheid sal binne die grense van die UV en die stad Bloemfontein voortleef,” het Pieter du Toit, voorsitter van die Kovsie Alumni-vereniging, gesê.

Kovsie Alumni het ook vir mnr Tate Makgoe, LUR vir Onderwys in die Vrystaat, met 'n Cum Laude-toekenning vereer vir sy visie en passie om in die opvoeding van die kinders van die Vrystaat te belê, deur sy ondersteuning van projekte en vennootskappe. Hy is, onder andere, betrokke by die Internetuitsaaiprojek in vennootskap met die universiteit se ICTISE-afdeling. Hierdie projek bied daaglikse interaktiewe kurrikulumgefookoste ondersteuning regoor die provinsie, insluitend die mees landelike gebiede. Dit word gedoen deur die uitsaai van daaglikse lesse, wat die kurrikulum van meer as 10 vakke per graad dek, na meer as 70 sentrums in die Vrystaat.

Ander wat die Cum Laude-toekenning by hierdie geleentheid ontvang het, is:

- Chris Botha, Groep Uitvoerende Hoof van die Media Shop-groep
- Pauline Gutter, Vrystaatse kunstenaar Tate Makgoe, LUR vir Onderwys in die Vrystaat
- Jans Rautenbach, Suid-Afrikaanse draaiboekskrywer, filmvervaardiger en regisseur
- Johan Volsteedt, voormalige skoolhoof van Grey Sekondêre Skool en betrokke by die televisiereeks Dream School SA.

Die universiteit het ook by hierdie geleentheid die Ambassadeurstoekenning aan Sibusiso Tshabalala oorhandig. Hy is die programkoördineerder van die World Design Capital-promosieprojek. Hierdie dinamiese en talentvolle jong man, wat die geleenthede gehad het om homself op uiteenlopende podiums regoor die wêreld te posisioneer, is inderdaad 'n ambassadeur vir die UV. Te oordeel na dit wat hy bereik het, wag daar 'n blink en suksesvolle toekoms op hom, met die universiteit as een van die boustene van sy toekomstige sukses.

Die Odeion-Strykkwartet het ook 'n Ambassadeurstoekenning ontvang.

Hoofbestuurstoekennings is gemaak aan:

- Prof Johan Nel, Kliniese Hoof: Departement Verloskunde en Ginekologie, Pelonomi-hospitaal, Vrystaatse Provinsiale Administrasie en Universiteit van die Vrystaat en medeprofessor, hoofspesialis, reprodktiewe chirurg en senior dosent
- DB Prinsloo, Direkteur van KovsieSport aan die UV. **B**



Mnr Tate Makgoe en Lorraine Roux.



Foto's: Dries Myburgh

Sibusiso Tshabalala en Dr Sheila Aronstam.

Kovsies in the media

A number of the university's former students made it in the world of journalism, whether it is behind or in front of the screens or even with the written word.

Maurice Carpede

Course:
Bluris
1987–1992, never completed, though

Current position:
Actor, radio and TV presenter.
Currently hosts Smile 90.4FM drive show and presents 50/50 on SABC2

Biggest career obstacle:
No major hiccups thus far, however, I feel that I should have pushed myself a little more. It's never too late ...

Best career advice:
If you enjoy what you do, you will never work a day in your life.

Fondest memory of UFS:
My days at Radio Shimla, time at the Department of Drama and Theatre Arts and at KOVSGEM, playing soccer for Veritas, and of course creating lifelong friendships.



Photo: Supplied

Esté de Klerk

Course:
BA Communication (with drama), BA Hons Communication majoring in Journalism and Advertising (1995–1998)

Current position:
Carte Blanche Producer and investigative journalist, Live Content, Morning Show and Court Producer of the Oscar Pistorius Trial Channel – a Carte Blanche channel.

Biggest career obstacle:
Every story has its own obstacles; it is how you deal with it that makes the difference. It always works out in the end.

Best career advice:
Don't step into journalism if it isn't your passion ... It takes a tremendous amount of dedication, time and sacrifices, but if it's your passion – like it is for me – it's all worth it. It is very humbling that I can make a difference through the work that I do.

Fondest memory of UFS:
Drama rehearsals, student life in Soetdoring and my year as SRC Culture (1996/97) – in this position I started the National Sêr competition that is still a major event on the cultural calendar of the five participating universities.



Photo: Supplied



Photo: Michael Hammond

Jan-Jan Joubert

Course:
BA, BA Hons (History) cum laude, HDE (1991–1995)

Current position:
Parliamentary Bureau Chief: Sunday Times.

Biggest career obstacle:
I have not faced many career obstacles. However, life is neither fair nor reciprocal. The lows will follow the highs as night follows day – the trick lies in how you handle it.

Best career advice:
"Always do your best, every single day" – advice from veteran politician Sakkie Pretorius, who is currently a city councillor for Parow, Cape Town.

Fondest memory of UFS:
Great times in the *Irawa* newspaper offices and in res. Lectures by gifted and open-minded academics made a lasting impression, notably by Prof André Wessels (History), Prof Hennie van Coller (Afrikaans) and Prof Tony Ulyatt (English).

Hanlie Retief

Course:
BA Communication, BA Hons Communication (1980–1983)

Current position:
Specialist writer at Rapport, Media 24

Biggest career obstacle:
To juggle children, husband, cat and dogs and career, in such a way that they all receive top priority. That's not an obstacle – that's Mount Everest!

Best career advice:
To follow your passion. It is incredible how the bingo then happens. More important – push for it, every time, every opportunity, every assignment. If you don't, you might as well go and lie on a beach and tan the day away – professionally you will have achieved zilch, but at least you will be pumped with Vitamin D.

Fondest memory of UFS:
Youth. Opportunities. Fun. The faint whiff of brains working in an examination hall. Professors with their cocktail of wisdom and cynicism. The first interview I wrote, in my third year, got published in *Bult*. Now that is a memory!



Photo: Supplied

By Cindé Greyling



Photo: Supplied

Lesego Modutle

Course:
BA Communication (2006–2008)

Current position:
Television presenter, Sign Language Interpreter, Communication Facilitator for Deafblind South Africa.

Biggest career obstacle:
Finding my own comfortable space in the very small media industry.

Best career advice:
Do something you enjoy, let money be a bonus. An unhappy career life can have a negative impact on all the other areas of your life.

Fondest memory of UFS:
The lecturers from whom I have taken a little piece with me throughout my journey: Emily Matabane, Philemon Akach, Margaret Linstrom, Xany Jansen Van Vuuren, Mercia Coetzee and Willemien Marais.



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