

Issue 1 • 2015

Bult

Nuustydskrif | News magazine



*Inspiring excellence. Transforming lives.
Inspireer uitnemendheid. Verander lewens.*

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



Bult

REDAKTEUR | EDITOR

Leonie Bolleurs

Department:
Communication and Brand Management
bolleursl@ufs.ac.za

PO Box 339
Bloemfontein 9300
South Africa

www.ufs.ac.za

Tel: +27(0) 51 401 2707
Cell: +27(0) 83 645 5853
Fax: +27(0) 51 444 6393

PRODUKSIE | PRODUCTION

Ontwerp | Design

Chrysalis Advertising & Publishing

Tel: +27(0) 51 522 1695
www.chrysalis-advertising.co.za

Menings wat in die publikasie gelug word, weerspieël nie noodwendig die van die universiteit nie. Bult word onder oudstudente, donateurs, sake- en regeringsleiers, meningsvormers en Kopsie-vriende versprei. Artikels kan met die nodige erkenning elders gebruik word. Rig navrae hieroor aan die Redakteur.

Opinions expressed in the publication are not necessarily those of the Editor, the division or the university. Bult is sent to alumni, donors, business and government leaders, opinion formers and Kopsie friends. Articles can be published elsewhere, with the necessary acknowledgement. Contact the Editor in this regard.



Front page: The Thinking Stone on the Bloemfontein Campus. Artist: Willem Boshoff.
Photo: Sonia Small

Back page: Students enjoying the art sculptures in front of the Main Building on the Bloemfontein Campus. Photo: Sonia Small

Flyleaves: Design elements from various spaces on the Bloemfontein Campus.

Brief van die redakteur



Tik jy op Google in 'hoogtepunte vir 2015', handel die eerste klompie bladsye almal oor sportprestasies. Net soos hierdie wêreldtendens – waar sporthoogtepunte op die voorgrond is – spog ons universiteit ook met sy eie sportprestasies.

Lees gerus die berig oor ons sportprestasies wat fokus op die Shimlas, ons Varsity Sevens-kampioenspan, KopsieTennis en KopsieNetbal. Ons hokkieprestasies is ook deel van hierdie uitgawe, waarin onder meer berig word oor ons drie Protea-spelers. 'n Ander Protea wat nou ook deel uitmaak van die Kopsie-familie, is die assistent-afrigter, Martha Mosoahle-Samm. Lees gerus wat Ruan Bruwer oor haar skryf. Ons berig ook oor DB Prinsloo, die Direkteur van KopsieSport, wat aan die stuur is van al die sportkodes en beslis trots is op sy span by KopsieSport.

'n Ander hoogtepunt vir die universiteit is die toename in buite-finansiering ten opsigte van navorsing. Die UV is onder meer die agentskap vir 'n navorsingskontrak ter waarde van USD\$10,5 deur die Wêreldbank wat aan die Suider-Afrikaanse Ontwikkelingsgemeenskap (SAOG) toegeken is. Lees ook oor prof Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela, Senior Navorsingsprofessor in Trauma, Vergifnis en Versoeningstudies se R30 miljoen-toekenning deur die Mellon-stigting vir 'n vyfjaar-navorsingsprojek. Navorsingskontrakte soos hierdie is 'n bewys dat die UV se navorsing raakgesien word en 'n verskil maak.

Verder gaan personeel, studente, sowel as alumni, voort om naam te maak. In musiek, letterkunde, die mynbedryf, navorsing en gemeenskapsbetrokkenheid maak personeel en studente daaglik 'n positiewe verskil in baie Suid-Afrikaners se lewens.

Groete tot volgende keer
Leonie 



UFSUV |



UFSweb |



UFSweb

Content

News | Nuus

Toename in buite-finansiering vir navorsing	2
Dr Mokhele unanimously reappointed as Chancellor	4
School of Medicine signs Memorandum of Agreement	5
Só kry plekke name	6
Tate Makgoe - believing in a proud vision for all	7
UV-biblioteek weerspieël wonderlike letterkunde	8
Trauma, memory and the arts	9
UFS is becoming more universally accessible	10
Kovsies unite in No-to-Racism/Yes-to-Equality Campaign	12
Derek Foster: rolmodel vir leierskap	13
UFS academic releases a book described as 'a rare gift'	14



Community/ Gemeenskap

The gift of sight changes the lives of two teenagers	16
Community Engagement teaches students life lessons	17
South Campus sets students up for magnificent success	18



Research | Navorsing

Assisting patients is a very rewarding experience	20
The bull in a china shop: bullies at work in South Africa	21
UFS venture cleans up acid mine drainage	22
Prof Melanie Walker exemplifies UFS academic excellence	24



Staff | Personeel

One of the biggest trees in quantity surveying	26
Nadine Lake's research addresses corrective rape	27
Van Frans op skool tot ridderskap by ambassade	28
Tjellis met 'n doktorsgraad en 'n CD	29
SA se top afrigter is 'n Kovsie!	30



Students | Sport

Joolkom-lede wat terugkom, maak dit moontlik	32
Extended programme student believes in CASH	34
Proteas netball gets even more Free State flavour	35
Sports hat trick great showcase for Kovsies	36
Vier Kovsies maak in 2015 hulle SA-hokkie-debuut	38



Alumni

Dr Douglas Nkosi makes a difference	40
Individual meaning of today transforms into universal values of tomorrow, says alumnus	41

Toename in buite-finansiering vir navorsing 'n bewys van vertroue in die UV

Deur Lacea Loader

Die UV se verkryging van navorsingsfinansiering van buite-organisasies het tydens die 2013/2014-boekjaar 'n aansienlike hupstoot gekry. Finansiering wat van die Nasionale Navorsingstigting (NNS) alleen verkry word, het gegroei van R24 miljoen in 2013 tot meer as R50 miljoen in 2014.

“Omdat tersiêre instellings nie langer net op staatsubsidies kan oorleef nie, word al hoe meer gekyk na wyses om inkomste aan te vul. Hierdie inkomste word vir verskeie programme en projekte aangewend, met 'n sterk klem op navorsing,” sê dr Glen Taylor, senior direkteur: navorsingsontwikkeling aan die UV.

'n Bron wat aansienlike inkomste vir die universiteit gelewer het, was die kort leerprogramme wat aangebied word. Die groei in inkomste vir die leerprogramme was vanjaar meer as 30% in vergelyking met die inkomste gedurende 2012. “Inkomste uit kort leerprogramme word gebruik om die kern-besigheid van die UV te ondersteun,” sê dr Taylor.

Groot navorsingskontrakte is ook gesluit. Só dien die UV byvoorbeeld as agentskap vir 'n navorsingskontrak ter waarde van USD\$10,5 van die Wêreldbank wat aan die Suider-Afrikaanse Ontwikkelingsgemeenskap (SAOG) toegeken is. Die kontrak word deur die Instituut vir Grondwaterstudies (IGS) bestuur en behels navorsing oor die bestuur en vorming van beleid van ondergrondse waterbronne wat oor grense strek.

Nog 'n wesenlike toekenning is finansiering wat van die Waternavorsingskommissie ontvang word. Die geld word gebruik om navorsing oor die volhoubare benutting van water te doen en maniere waarop dit beter aangewend kan word om gemeenskappe te ontwikkel. Die toekenning aan die UV vir suksesvolle projekte beloop gemiddeld R5,5 miljoen per jaar.

Die UV het ook kontrakte met nasionale en internasionale vennote. Die UV doen navorsing van meer as R30 miljoen vir verskeie mynboumaatskappye soos Anglo American, BHP Billiton, Exxaro en Goldfields Ltd. “Verder is daar ook navorsingsfinansiering van die Nasionale Instituut van Gesondheid (NIH) in die VSA, die Europese Unie en verskeie bilaterale navorsingsooreenkomste met lande soos Brasilië, China en Indië, asook kontrakte met Sasol en die Landbounavorsingsraad (LNR),” sê dr Taylor.

“Ons beleef geweldige belangstelling van verskeie maatskappye oor finansiering van die programme, projekte en intellektuele eiendom van die UV, wat 'n bewys is dat ons navorsing raakgesien word en 'n verskil maak,” sê hy. **B**





“Omdat tersiêre instellings nie langer net op staatsubsidies kan oorleef nie, word al hoe meer gekyk na wyses om inkomste aan te vul.”



Die UV dien as agentskap vir 'n navorsingskontrak ter waarde van USD\$10.5 van die Wêreldbank wat aan die SAOG toegeken is.



UFS Council unanimously reappoints Dr Khotso Mokhele as Chancellor

By Lacea Loader

The university council unanimously reappointed Dr Khotso Mokhele as Chancellor, during its quarterly meeting held on 13 March 2015. He was first appointed in this portfolio by the Council on 4 June 2010.

"It is an honour for the Council to reappoint someone of this stature as Chancellor of the UFS. With his solid academic background and high profile in the business world, Dr Mokhele has been a great asset to the UFS. On behalf of the Council and the university community, I extend a word of appreciation for the work he has done during his first term as Chancellor of the UFS. He is an exceptional leader, and the university community is looking forward to have him as Chancellor for a second term," said Judge Ian van der Merwe, Chairperson of the UFS Council.

Dr Mokhele was awarded a BSc Agriculture from Fort Hare University, and continued his studies at the University of California Davis (USA) on the Fulbright-Hays Scholarship Programme, completing his MSc (Food Science) and PhD (Microbiology). He was subsequently a postdoctoral fellow at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine (USA) and the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine (USA). Dr Mokhele is the recipient of honorary doctorates from nine South African universities, including the UFS, and from Rutgers University in the USA.

Dr Mokhele currently serves as Special Advisor to the Minister of Science and Technology, the Honourable Naledi Pandor. His current corporate positions include: Non-Executive Chairman: Board of Directors, Impala Platinum Holdings Ltd (Implats); Lead Independent Non-Executive Director: African Oxygen Ltd (Afrox); Non-Executive Director of Zimbabwe Platinum Holdings Ltd (Zimplats); Hans Merensky Holdings Ltd; and Tiger Brands Ltd. He is the President of the Hans Merensky Foundation (South Africa) and a Trustee of SciDev.Net (a web-based scientific magazine based in London, UK) and Start International Inc (USA). **B**

Dr Khotso Mokhele.



Photo: Stephen Collett

School of Medicine signs Memorandum of Agreement

By Lacea Loader

Photo: Hannes Pieterse



In front, from the left, are: Dr David Motau, Head of the Department of Health in the Free State; Benny Malakoane, MEC for Health in the Free State; Prof Jonathan Jansen, Vice-Chancellor and Rector of the UFS; Dr Choice Makhetha, Vice-Rector: External Relations at the UFS. Standing are, from the left: Prof Alan St Clair Gibson, Head of the School of Medicine at the UFS; Dr Balekile Mzangwa, CEO of the Department of Health in the Free State; Prof Gert van Zyl, Dean: Faculty of Health Sciences at the UFS; Dr Marcus Molokomme, Acting Head of Universitas Hospital, as well as CEO of the Pelonomi Hospital in Bloemfontein; and Prof Nicky Morgan, Vice-Rector: Operations at the UFS.

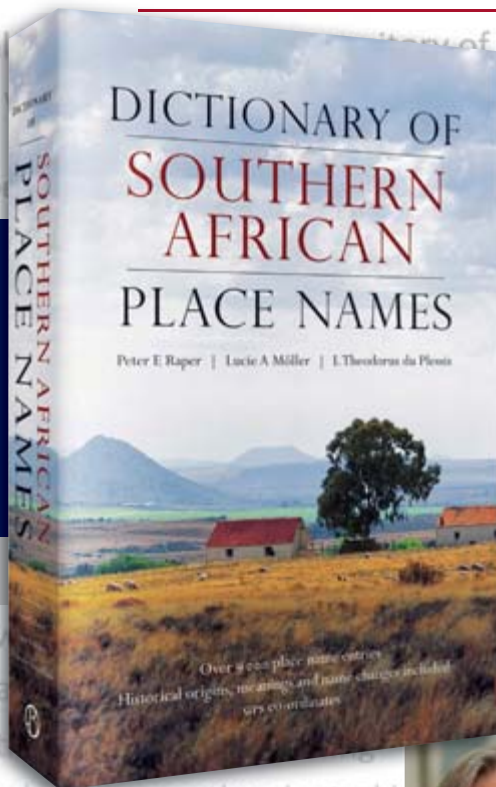
A new Memorandum of Agreement was recently signed between the UFS School of Medicine and the Department of Health in the Free State. The School of Medicine continues to operate on a very strong footing thanks to cooperative actions undertaken by the Department of Health in the Free State Province and the leadership of the Faculty of Health Sciences.

"I am excited about the signing of the agreement. This ensures the academic platform and the department are contributing to the improvement of communities in the province," Benny Malakoane, MEC for Health in the Free State, said at the signing of the agreement.

The university management continues to work with the three main academic hospitals in the Free State

Province and the Department of Health to ensure the adequate provisioning of facilities and materials, as well as support, to ensure that the practical training of our students is of a high quality. The Memorandum of Agreement binds the partners to deliver on these specific needs.

"For these reasons, and more, we continue to attract among the best and the brightest students into the medical class at the UFS, having selected 140 students from a total applicant pool of 2 800. This in itself signals the faith and confidence of young people in the School of Medicine as still one of the best training sites for future doctors in South Africa," said Prof Jonathan Jansen, Vice-Chancellor and Rector of the UFS. **B**



Só kry plekke name

Deur Gerrie van Eeden



Prof Peter Raper.



Dr Lucie Möller Plessis.



Prof Theo du Plessis.

Het jy al ooit gewonder waar Koekenaap se naam vandaan kom? Weet jy dat Mangaung die Sotho-benaming vir die naam Bloemfontein is? Drie personeellede van die Universiteit van die Vrystaat het dit hulle taak gemaak om te verseker die oorsprong en spelling van Suid-Afrikaanse plekname behoue vir ons nageslag bly.

Dit het alles in 1987 begin toe prof Peter Raper die eerste *Dictionary of Southern African Place Names* saamgestel het. Hierdie eerste uitgawe het die bal aan die rol gesit om voort te bou op sy goeie werk en die vierde uitgawe het onlangs die lig gesien. Die medewerkers aan hierdie uitgawe was dr Lucie Möller en prof Theo du Plessis, wat saam met prof Raper gesorg het dat daar nou nagenoeg 9 000 inskrywings in hierdie waardevolle boek is.

Volgens prof Raper is daar 2 000 meer inskrywings as in die vorige uitgawe opgeneem en die beskrywings en spelling van plekname is met amper 50% bygewerk. Dit sluit nou ook die GPS-koördinate van elke pleknaam in, wat in die vorige uitgawes nie die geval was nie.

Die name word nie net uitgedink nie. Elke pleknaam word deeglik nagevors om seker te maak die oorsprong in welke taal ook al verduidelik word. Wat verder uniek aan hierdie uitgawe is, is dat dit die eerste keer is dat die Boesman-oorsprong van name, wat sedert 2006 nagevors is, ook ingesluit is.

Prof Raper se bekwaamheid om hierdie taak aan te pak spruit uit die feit dat hy, bo en behalwe sy posisie as navorsingsgenoot van die universiteit se Eenheid vir Taalfasilitering en Bemagtiging, onder andere ook voorheen die president van die Naamvennootskap van Suid-Afrika was en lid is van die Nasionale Pleknaamvereniging van Suid-Afrika. **B**

Tate Makgoe – believing in a proud vision for all

By Ilse Smallberger

The MEC of Education in the Free State, Pule Herbert Isak Makgoe, is serving his third term on the UFS Council.

Tate, as he is known, holds a Chemical Engineering degree from the Technikon Vaal Triangle, a Bachelor of Commerce degree from Unisa, an Honours in Commerce degree from the UFS, and a Master's degree in Business Leadership from Unisa.

From an early age, he was acutely aware of the delicate and volatile political landscape in the country caused by draconian apartheid policies. He has been active in the political realm since 1984, when he left the country to join the ANC's military wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe, in exile.

"I have devoted my life to the disadvantaged and marginalised in order to realise fully the objectives of true political transformation and the total eradication of grinding poverty," he says.

His political activism landed him in Sun City prison from 1986 to 1991. After the unbanning of the ANC, Makgoe became a Northern Free State regional executive member and, in 1994, he was appointed as the ANC's election campaign manager in the Free State. He has also served as provincial treasurer and as a member of the executive committee of the ANC in the province.

After serving as MEC in five portfolios at different times, namely, Finance, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Agriculture, Public Safety, and Security, and Finance – all in the Free State Province – Makgoe was appointed as MEC for Education in 2009, a position he has held ever since.

In 2014, he received the prestigious Ubuntu Award for Education by the Turquoise Harmony Institute for his outstanding leadership role in steering the department to produce the highest matric pass rate in the country of 87,4%. Previous recipients of the Ubuntu Award include late former president Nelson Mandela and anti-apartheid struggle icon Ahmed Kathrada.

Last year, at the Kopsie Alumni Awards function, Makgoe received the Cum Laude Award. The Cum Laude Award is occasionally bestowed on an alumnus for outstanding service or achievement on regional, national or international level in his/her field of work.

He is married to Ivy and the couple has three children – Palesa, Maki, and Junior. **B**

Tate Makgoe.



Photo: Stephen Collett

UV-biblioteek weerspieël wonderlike letterkunde

Deur Igno van Niekerk

Die onlangse afsterwe van die skrywer André P Brink het die publiek se aandag weer gevestig op die impak wat letterkunde op vele lewensterreine het. Brink was, soos vele van sy tydgenoot-skrywers, dikwels die onpopulêre gewete wat die Suid-Afrikaanse politieke bestel onder die vorige bedeling fel kritiseer het. Die impak van sy literêre werke was tot so 'n mate as 'n bedreiging beskou dat Brink gereeld deur die veiligheidspolisie dopgehou is, en selfs met hulle in konfrontasie was.

Dit is wanneer 'n mens in die UV-Sasol-biblioteek se letterkunde-afdeling na iets gaan soek wat Brink weerspieël, dat 'n mens besef watter ongelooflike rol die letterkunde gespeel het om nie alleen identiteite in Suid-Afrika te help vestig nie, maar ook om kopskuiwe mee te bring, verandering te bepleit, en op 'n eiesoortige manier ook die spieëlbeeld van 'n samelewing in konstante oorgang te wees.


By elke rak spreek 'n ander deel van my eie Suid-Afrikaanse verlede my aan. Daar is die stories van PJ Schoeman wat die wysheid van die veldwagters en die onskuldige grootwordproses van 'n jong seun weergegee het. 'n Deel van ons verlede wat dikwels vergeet word, is dat gewone mense oor kleurgrense heen dikwels vir mekaar omgee het, mekaar waardeur het, en by mekaar geleer het. Tog was daar die onskuldige wêreld, saam met die idilliese stories van PH Nortjé, die landelike verhale van WA de Klerk en die geleidelike oogopmakers soos FA Venter se *Geknelde land*. Die stil stemme van Swart Afrikaanse skrywers wat publikasie ontnem is praat deur die rakke. Tog, weergalm die gedigte van Adam Small, SV Peterson en PJ Philander. 'n Mens wonder oor die verlore verhale. Die perspektiewe wat ons ontnem is gedurende ons grootwordjare. Tog, die letterkunde bly nooit stil nie.

Die onskuldige verhale van laerskoolherinneringe staan hier rakke en deel met die gewetenskrywers. Breyten Breytenbach, Etienne Leroux, Jan Rabie, André P Brink ... die lys hou aan. Iewers het die veld en die stad ontmoet. Op die rakke staan onskuld langs ontug, aanvaarding langs uitdaging, preutsheid langs spontaniteit. Terwyl skrywers en boektitels in die stilte van die biblioteekrakke skouer teen skouer, en letter na letter, die groot gedagtes van die skrywers saam met die vlietende herinneringe van 'n

veranderende land bewaar, besef 'n mens dat boeke soos *Triomf*, *Sewe dae by die Silbersteins*, 'n *Droë wit seisoen* en ander dikwels die sleutels was wat ons van die slotte van onkunde bewaar het.

Letterkunde beskik oor die gawe van onsterflikheid. Stories hou nooit op om te kommunikeer nie. Kommunikasie bring verandering, aanvaarding, ervaring en ontnugtering. Soms wonder ek of ons besef watter waarde in die biblioteek wag om oopgeblaai en omgeblaai te word. Ons drafstap na rekenaarkatalogi, ons soek dringend na bepaalde bronne, ons plaas ons *ibids* en *op cits* korrek in bronnelyste, maar ons sien nie waarby ons verbystap nie.

Op 'n vliegtuig tussen Nederland en Suid-Afrika het Brink se stem stil geword, maar tussen die rakke van die letterkunde-afdeling op vlak 7 in die biblioteek praat hy nog. Hy redeneer met ander skrywers wat voor hom was en na hom gekom het. Hy is een uit 'n magdom talentvolle mense wat hul stories gebruik het om lewens te verander, 'n land te definieer en 'n wêreld te fassineer. Hy wag om ook met jou en my te gesels; hy en al sy rakgenote.

In tye van voortdurende verandering is die letterkunderak in die biblioteek 'n spieëlbeeldverklaring wat uitwys dat daar niks nuuts onder die son is nie, dat ons 'n lang pad gestap het as landsgenote, en dat ons nog 'n lang pad moet stap. Die rak is vol gidse, mentors en townaars. Die rak staan en wag vir jou en my om verby te stap, 'n gesprek te begin en 'n verskil te maak. 

Trauma, memory and the arts

– Prof Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela secures a R10 million research grant

By Michelle Nothling

How is trauma transmitted from one generation to the next? Why does our youth act out as if they themselves have experienced traumas of the past? And what role might the arts and theatre play in healing these wounds?

Prof Gobodo-Madikizela.

These are some of the questions Prof Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela, Senior Research Professor in Trauma, Forgiveness, and Reconciliation Studies at the UFS, will address in a five-year research project. Through an aspirational and inspirational proposal, Prof Gobodo-Madikizela has secured a R10 million grant from the Andrew W Mellon Foundation to support this project – one of the largest grants the foundation has awarded to a university. With this international backing, the project, 'Trauma, Memory, and Representations of the Past: Transforming Scholarship in the Humanities and Arts', was launched earlier this year.

"One of the most remarkable aspects of trauma is the loss of language – a moment of rupture that produces what some scholars have referred to as 'speechless terror'," Prof Gobodo-Madikizela says. "When people are traumatised by violence to their bodies and to their sense of identity, or as witnesses to extreme violation of others, these overwhelming

life experiences rupture the capacity for speech, and a 'silent language' begins to develop."

In addition, "we are now dealing with a generation of young people who were born after the traumas of the past," Prof Gobodo-Madikizela adds. Historical trauma is "passed on to the younger generation and becomes their own stories and narratives, as if they themselves had experienced the traumas directly."

This is where the arts and theatre may play a pivotal role. The literary, performance, and visual arts may offer a mechanism through which this unspeakable, traumatic past can be represented. "We are interested not only in how experiences that transcend language are represented through the arts," Prof Gobodo-Madikizela says, "but also in probing the limits of trauma theory, and how the creative arts might be employed to bear witness in a way that may open up the possibility of healing." **B**

UFS is *universally*

The university is currently aiming at becoming a *universally accessible university*.

By Stefan Lotter



One of the walkways on the Qwaqwa Campus.



UFS Sasol Library is now universally accessible.

Our university takes pride in being considered one of the leading universities in South Africa in terms of support and accessibility for students with disabilities, especially since the establishment of the Unit for Students with Disabilities (USD) in 2001. However, the scope needs to widen as we look to a future of *universal access*. So what is *universal access*, you might ask?

"It is an approach to disability stemming from the social model of disability where the focus moves from an impaired person to interaction between a person and the environment, either enabling or disabling him/her," says the USD's Hetsie Veitch.

"The principal aim is to create an environment (physical, social, and learning) that is accessible for the benefit of the widest range of possible users, including persons with disabilities."

So, in a certain sense, the focus shifts from accommodating a person with disability to levelling the field for everyone. For example: ramps and elevators are not additions to a building only for people with disabilities, but are also for delivery people with trolleys, parents with infants in strollers, injured athletes on crutches, senior citizens, and people who are simply in a hurry. This might also mean that public bathrooms are no longer different spaces for men, women, and people with disabilities. Instead, they might be one space, accommodating the needs and privacy of men and women of differing abilities.

The UFS has already been implementing universal access on its campuses. This can be seen at all the newest residences where all signage is in Braille as well. It is also to be seen at our South Campus in Bloemfontein where the newest lecture venue is built against a hill and therefore has 'ground floor' entrances on the first and third level. At

becoming more *accessible*

Photos: Anja Aucamp and Charl Devenish



“Ramps and elevators are not additions to a building only for people with disabilities, but also for use by delivery people with trolleys, parents with infants in strollers, injured athletes on crutches, senior citizens, and people who are simply in a hurry.”

The new building on the South Campus in Bloemfontein is also now universally accessible.

UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE | UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE VRYSTAAT | YUNIBESITHI YA FREESTATA

the Qwaqwa Campus, the recently completed Accessibility Project focused on improving accessibility to all buildings and facilities on campus. Thresholds to doorways and covered walkways have been made accessible with alterations to paving and/or concrete aprons.

Even the computer labs and the UFS Sasol Library on the Bloemfontein Campus have ramps between the floors instead of stairs. Building entrances with automatic sliding doors is another way to accommodate not only people with disabilities, but also students, staff, or even couriers who might be carrying heavy loads of books or boxes and who might find it difficult to open a door as well.

Yet, there is still room for improvement at places and spaces across all three campuses. According to Veitch, the biggest barrier to improving a universally accessible space is an

attitudinal one. Becoming a universally accessible university starts with *universal design*.

This is the process of creating products that are usable by people with the widest possible range of abilities, operating within the widest possible range of situations as is commercially practical. The incorporation of universal design in both teaching and learning practices as well as participation in student life, promotes the creation of learning spaces that are accessible to an increasingly diverse student population, according to Burgstahler & Cory (2008).

Therefore, universal design is not only about improving the physical space of the university but also of the learning environment. While the USD focuses on the holistic approach to the physical space, it is the Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) at the university that is improving the learning space. **B**

Kovsies unite in No-to-Racism/ Yes-to-Equality Campaign

By Michelle Nothling

The Council of the University of the Free State believes very strongly in the human dignity, equality, and freedom of all people. Accordingly, the Council reaffirms its abhorrence of acts of racism, sexism, and unfair discrimination of any kind or in any form.

– Declaration by the Council of the University of the Free State, 2014

Towards the implementation of this declaration, the Institute for Reconciliation and Social Justice, together with the SRC, launched the No-to-Racism/Yes-to-Equality Campaign. The first leg of the campaign kicked off in March 2015, with the Bloemfontein, Qwaqwa and South Campuses uniting in saying no to racism.

The Kovsky community took a stand not only against racism, but also against homophobia, sexism, ableism, xenophobia, classism, ethnicism, ageism, and all forms of intolerance. Prof Jonathan Jansen, Vice-Chancellor and Rector of the UFS, asked students and staff to take an honest introspection of how well and to what level they are dealing with these forms of 'othering' in their lives.

As the campaign unites Kovsky in their rejection of racism, it also supports the reach forward to

embrace the advancement of equality. The words of SRC President Mosa Leteane capture the essence of this campaign's message. "We say 'no' because we want to say 'yes'. Fix your 'no' so that your 'yes' is clear, it's equal, it's honest. That is what 'yes' looks like."

The No-to-Racism/Yes-to-Equality Campaign culminated in a ceremony during which the Kovsky community pledged their commitment to entrenching a culture of equality at the university. The first pledge ceremony took place on 13 April 2015 at the Bloemfontein Campus. This was closely followed by a pledge ceremony on 15 April 2015 on the Qwaqwa Campus with the South Campus weighing in their support on 17 April 2015. Kovsky stood shoulder-to-shoulder, placing their inked thumbprints on pledge posters in an inspirational show of solidarity.

"The key to transformation," Prof Jansen said at the Bloemfontein Campus pledge, "is putting yourself in the shoes of the other person." When you look past yourself and acknowledge others' experiences, the world starts to look different. A pledge, Prof Jansen continued, is a solemn promise – not only to stop bad behaviour, but to go forward resolutely with good behaviour. "You do not change a campus, you do not change a country, without being courageous," he said.

"The new generation," Mosa said to a crowd of students and staff gathered at the front of the Main Building, "has started a new revolution." Young Kovsky of all races are now pledging their commitment to the eradication of racism and the advancement of equality. "Today," she said, "the UFS takes a bold and courageous step toward equality."

The 2015 No-to-Racism/Yes-to-Equality Campaign has generated renewed conversation and interest in the challenges that the UFS – and higher education as a whole – face in pursuing goals of inclusivity and equality. This campaign has also highlighted the urgency of much-needed action in terms of making transformation a reality in the everyday lives of staff and students on all three campuses. What is emerging from the conversations is the need to go beyond dialogues and consultation processes towards active decision-making, followed by real commitment and implementation.

The UFS is creating a space for critical engagement among all university stakeholders to focus on issues such as symbols, policies, practices, and curriculum. The aim is to deal with these issues as transformative strategies for creating a university culture that supports its Human and Academic Projects, which are imbedded in responsible citizenship, human dignity, and democratic participation. **B**

The first pledge ceremony took place on 13 April 2015 at the Bloemfontein Campus. Kovsky stood shoulder to shoulder, placing their inked thumbprints on pledge posters in an inspirational show of solidarity.

Photos: Johan Roux



Derek Foster:

rolmodel vir etiese en verantwoordelike leierskap

Deur Ilse Smallberger

Derek Foster is in Oktober 2012 tot die raad van die Universiteit van die Vrystaat (UV) verkies. Hy is die eerste GR(SA) wat nog deur die raad aangestel is, danksy die rol wat hy vanweë sy opleiding, agtergrond en ervaring kan speel. Dit is veral sy kennis van korporatiewe bestuur, etiek en verslagdoening wat daartoe gelei het dat hy tans in die oudit- en risikokomitee, finansiële komitee en beleggingskomitee van die raad dien.

Hierdie oud-Kovsie het in 1978 as geoktrooieerde rekenmeester aan die UV gekwalifiseer. Tydens sy studentejare het hy vir Oud-Studente rugby gespeel en was hy op die aandstudenterraad.

Derek was tot in Desember 2010 as 'n vennoot aan PwC verbonde, waar hy as 'n groentjie in 1972 aangesluit het toe dit nog as Meyer, Nel en kie bekend gestaan het. Deesdae is hy 'n besigheidskonsultant en maatskappydirekteur, wat op die direksies van NWK Beperk, Cansa (nasionaal) en Samba Koöperatief Beperk dien.

Sy agtergrond en kennis van oudit skemer sterk deur wanneer dit kom by hoe hy sy rol as raadslid sien.

“Die bydrae wat ek tot die universiteit se raad kan lewer, is om toe te sien dat die bestuur die strategie en beleid, soos deur die raad geformuleer en goedgekeur, toepaslik uitvoer in die beste belang van die universiteitsgemeenskap. Dit moet natuurlik geskied op 'n etiese, volhoubare manier en met inagneming van die risiko-omgewing waarbinne ons onself bevind. Ons moet etiese leierskap verskaf en toesien dat die UV 'n verantwoordelike korporatiewe instelling is,” sê hy.

Werkverpligtinge hou hom baie besig, maar sy vier kleinseuns is ewe hoog op sy prioriteitslys. Sy vrou Sally het hy by Kovsies ontmoet – nog 'n rede hoekom die universiteit hom na aan die hart lê.

“Ek wil alles wat ek doen met oorgawe en passie doen en 'n verskil maak waar ek ook al gaan. Dan wil ek ook 'n goeie oupa wees en 'n onthoubare voorbeeld aan my kleinkinders stel,” sê hy. **B**

Derek Foster.

Sy agtergrond en kennis van oudit skemer sterk deur wanneer dit kom by hoe hy sy rol as raadslid sien.



Foto: Stephen Collett

UFS academic releases a book described as 'a rare gift'

By Thabo Kessah



Photo: Thabo Kessah

Prof Moffett handing over a copy of his latest book to Qwaqwa Campus Principal, Prof Prakash Naidoo.

“This is a rare gift, an account of how our regional flora and fauna came to describe us and define us. From butterfly collections to botanical exports from central South Africa to the herbarium in Kew, this book no doubt shows how human interactions were both shaped by and contributed towards the plant and animal life of the Free State.”

This is part of the foreword by Vice-Chancellor and Rector, Prof Jonathan Jansen, in describing the new book by Prof Rodney Moffett, an Honorary Research Associate in the Department of Plant Sciences at the University of the Free State's Qwaqwa Campus.

The book is entitled *A Biographical Dictionary of Contributors to the Natural History of the Free State and Lesotho*.

“Very little was known about the history of the early botanists in the Free State and Lesotho so I started gathering information on these.”


Prof Moffett said that the book came about as a result of gaps he had identified in recent publications in this field.

“The publication of the second edition of *Botanical Exploration in South Africa* by the SA Biodiversity Institute in Pretoria had so many omissions in it that I decided to fill in the gaps. Very little was known about the history of the early botanists in the Free State and Lesotho, so I started gathering information on these.

“While I was doing this, it also became apparent that no work had ever been published about scientists of other disciplines in the Free State and Lesotho; for example, people who collected and studied birds, butterflies, snakes, snails, wild animals, and fish. No such study had been done for the whole of South Africa. To cover the whole country was too big a task.

“The search for their biographical information took about two years, and unearthed many interesting facts. Besides being of historical interest, the biographical dictionary is also of academic value. Because I have included active scientists in the various disciplines, current researchers can find out who to contact in their field.

“I have always been interested in botanical history and in the scientists themselves, so doing this research suited me. It enabled me, in my retirement, to work from home, using the internet for much of the information, and I did not need a laboratory. The book contains information on 502 scientists,” said Prof Moffett.

Prof Moffett's previous book was *Sesotho Plant and Animal names and Plants used by the Basotho*. It was published in 2010. 



Community | Gemeenskap

The gift of sight changes the lives of two teenagers

By René-Jean van der Berg

Cellphones, selfies, texting, and cellphone games. Debra and Barbara Nyenzane (15) take turns to play and text friends with their mother's cellphone. Debra, phone in hand, giggles and exchanges a meaningful glance with her sister. Barbara giggles too, and shies away behind her hands.



Debra, Ellen and Barbara Nyenzane.

Until recently, this typical teenage behaviour was unknown to the teenage twin sisters from Thaba Nchu, who have been getting blinder during the past eight years.

From the age of about eight, both Barbara and Debra suffered from bilateral cataracts. In 2014, after struggling for a very long time to keep up in school; their school principal suggested that they enrol at the Bartemea School for the visually impaired. This was devastating news for the two, as they would have had to leave behind the very few friends they had.

A family friend, Olehile Moeng and Prof Jonathan Jansen, Vice-Chancellor and Rector, referred Barbara and Debra to

Dr Wayne Marais in August last year. In September, Dr Marais performed a bilateral cataract removal on both of them: a life-changing event in their lives.

"Netball", "soccer", "going to see our new friends", the two exclaim about what they like most about having regained their eyesight.

Their mother, Ellen Nyenzane, still sobs when she talks about the time when her twin daughters were struggling at school because of impaired vision.

"They could not read or write or play with friends. They were too scared to go out of the house," she recalls.

"They were just too scared ..."

"We were eight years old," 15-year-old Barbara Nyenzane continues the story.

"It started gradually. We started writing crooked. In the end, we could only see outlines of people and some movement," her sister, Debra, nods, her eyes not leaving the cellphone screen.

"Now I see everything," she giggles.

"Even boys?" Dr Marais asks, and they laugh loudly.

"They stood the risk of having to leave mainstream schooling because of something that can be fixed. When I heard about them, I immediately asked to see them. Here we are, a few months later, and they can continue with their lives."

Dr Marais and his team at the UFS Department of Optometry perform dozens of cataract surgeries on patients during the department's annual cataract surgery marathon, the Cataract Blitz. The department also conducts an annual Glaucoma Day, where patients in the Free State are screened for glaucoma. **B**

Community Engagement teaches our students critical life lessons

Learning to serve, serving to learn.
Connecting head, hands, and heart.

By Thabo Kessah

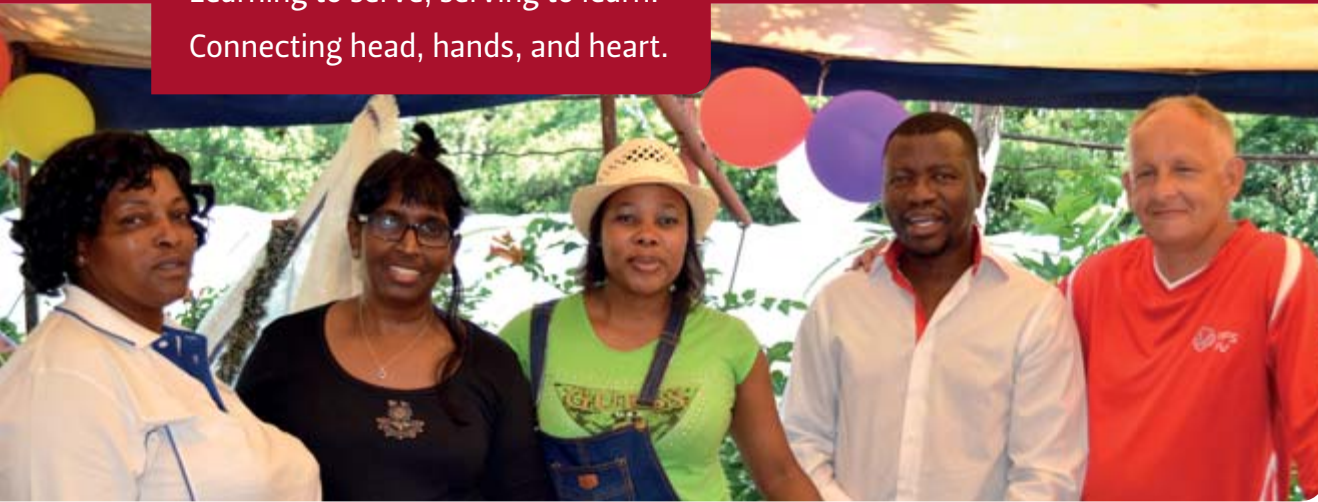


Photo: Thabo Kessah

Billyboy Ramahlele (second from right) during the Christmas party held in Wepener for disadvantaged children in the area. He is seen with, from the left: Moodi Matsoso, Community Engagement Coordinator on the Qwaqwa Campus; Christine Pragasam, a visiting nurse from Norwich in the UK; Lolly Mogoere, Community Development Officer and William Wessels, Feed a Child Project Manager.

These two expressions summarise accurately what the Community Engagement Division does. Community Engagement strives to remind the university community – students and staff – that the UFS exists within a broader community. Consequently, its positive influence must have an impact on that very community. It also strives to remind the UFS community about the Human Project that aims at setting standards of good behaviour and care for the students, both internally and externally in the communities.

“Our mandate is clear. We must create opportunities for students to acquire academic skills and knowledge by developing that spirit of service within the student community,” said Billyboy Ramahlele, Director: Community Engagement.

“The community projects we are involved in allow our students to have that sense of responsibility towards their own communities, whilst learning from them. We work hand in hand with other departments so that we can all contribute towards building responsible and respectful young adults who are socially and politically aware,” he said.

Ramahlele said that the division is also very responsive to the community structures that request help.

“We help where we can to make a difference in our communities. Early last year, we received a request from a Wepener non-governmental organisation called Feed A Child. This NGO caters for over 1 000 children who come mainly from child-headed households. It provides meals to over 300 children on a daily basis. As a department that strives for sustainability and development, we then decided to help

these children beyond daily meals by facilitating the process where they would get correct documentation for them to receive government grants.

“In December, the NGO wanted to host a Christmas party for these children. Because they had just bought a prosthetic leg for one of the children, they could no longer afford to host the annual Christmas party. We obliged, and with the help of our partners and students, we hosted an unforgettable party where each child received a present and a hearty meal. Seeing those children’s faces light up with excitement as they received Christmas presents made our students extremely happy. We also gave 24 of these children full school uniforms and a pair of shoes,” he added.

Some of the ongoing programmes for Community Engagement include helping with the No Student Hungry (NSH) project run by the Social Worker’s office on the Qwaqwa Campus.

“The NSH project is a crucial vehicle through which we teach our students the responsible way of making ends meet. The NSH offers nutritious meal bursaries to needy students, and, in return, these students must take care of our vegetable gardens on campus. This teaches them gardening and team work skills. At the same time, they take responsibility for looking after themselves by eating healthily,” said Ramahlele.

“We also work closely with the Faculty of Education where some of their practical courses need students to go out and do some work in the communities. It is here that students gain valuable experience, thus turning them into well-rounded teachers after they obtain their degrees,” he said. **B**

South Campus sets students up for magnificent success

By Michelle Nothling

Since 1996 the UFS Extended Degree Programmes and University Preparation Programme (UPP) on the South Campus in Bloemfontein have provided access to university studies for deserving matriculants who do not meet the requirements for entry into mainstream degree studies. The success of these programmes has followed such an upward trajectory that it has surpassed the highest expectations.

In the Extended Degree Programmes the first academic year of a mainstream qualification is typically divided into two study years, which includes three foundational modules, namely Academic Literacy, Skills and Competencies for Lifelong Learning, Mathematical Literacy for Higher Education Purposes and Basic Computer Skills. These extended degrees are therefore one year longer than their mainstream equivalents.

The UPP makes it possible for students who do not meet either mainstream or extended degree entry requirements to access an academic career at the UFS. During this one-year access programme students need to successfully complete two mainstream first-year subjects, as well as the foundational subjects mentioned above.

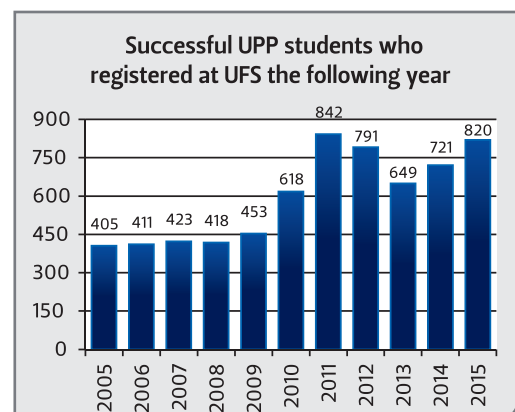
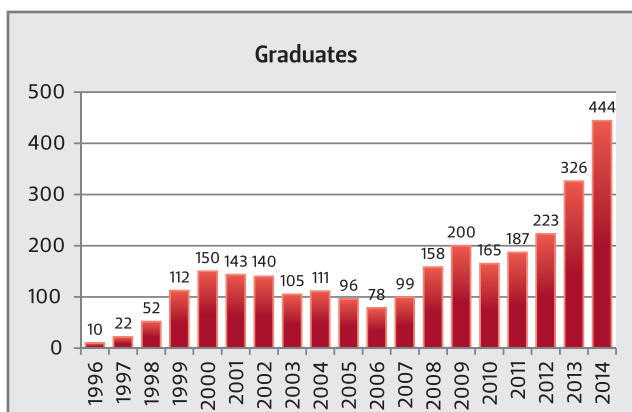
Since 1996, 3 031 degrees have been awarded to students who began their studies in the UPP, which includes 274 honours, 35 master's and nine MBChB degrees. The success rate of students completing the UPP – and thereby gaining access to

the Extended Degrees – was 83% in 2013 and 90% in 2014. In 2014 alone, 444 former UPP students graduated at the UFS. Last year, the South Campus Extended Degree students obtained an average pass rate of more than 90% for all their subjects, including the mainstream first-year subjects.

The magnificent success of these programmes can be ascribed to a student-centred, resource-based teaching and learning approach. Classes are divided into smaller groups and not only is class attendance compulsory, but students also have to attend additional well-organised and well-presented tutorials. An early-warning system also helps to identify those students who need extra support and motivation.

The students who have met with success through these two access initiatives are living examples of what is possible when individuals, of whom expectations would normally be low, are given the opportunities and necessary support to help secure their futures. **B**

UPP graduates per year over the years of its existence.





Research | Navorsing

“Assisting patients is a very rewarding experience”

– Prof Riaz Seedat

By René-Jean van der Berg



Prof Riaz Seedat.



Foto: Verskaf

Described as dynamic by members of the Faculty of Health Sciences, Prof Riaz Seedat, Head of the Department of Otorhinolaryngology at the UFS, juggles his daily life between research, managing the department and using his skills to provide much needed help.

Prof Seedat obtained his MMed (Otorhinolaryngology) with distinction from the University of the Free State in 2002. The following year he was accepted as a Fellow of the College of Otorhinolaryngologists of South Africa.

His research is focused on Ear, Nose and Throat pathology in a developing world setting. These areas of research include recurrent respiratory papillomatosis and Allergic rhinitis (hay fever) and its impacts on patients' quality of life.

“My work gives me the opportunity to work with people in need of care. Being able to assist patients is a very rewarding experience. I am fortunate to work with very dedicated and committed colleagues at Universitas Hospital, as teamwork is of the utmost importance in patient care and research.”

Prof Seedat enjoys the opportunity to do his research, the findings of which enable him and his team to better evaluate and manage patients.

“One of my areas of research is recurrent respiratory papillomatosis. In developed countries, this is a frequent cause of voice disturbance in children. However, in our setting children usually present with airway obstruction when the condition is far more advanced, which could be fatal. We have recently found that the condition is more prevalent in the Free State than in Europe and the USA. At present, our research on this condition is directed at attempting to identify markers of aggressive disease in these patients.

“Allergic rhinitis (hay fever) is another area of research. Although often trivialised, this condition can have a significant effect on patients' quality of life, affecting sleep and children's learning. Our research on this condition concentrated mainly on identifying the clinical presentation and most common allergens responsible for causing allergic rhinitis in the Free State.” **B**

The bull in a china shop:

bullies at work in South Africa

By Dr Denine Smit and Prof Voet du Plessis

Graphic: Arno Pienaar

UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE | UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE VRYSTAAT | YUNIBESITHI YA FREESTATA

Workplace bullying has attracted a considerable amount of domestic and international interdisciplinary attention, from legal scholars and sociologists to organisational and other psychologists, but South Africa has still to make strides in this regard.

The prevalence of bullying has been surveyed and analysed; conduct to fit the notion of bullying has been identified; and even the individual and societal costs of bullying behaviour have been studied in different jurisdictions. What is lacking, however, is a common definition for, and a uniform legal approach to, workplace bullying in South Africa.

Bullying has been described in many ways, the most succinct of which is “the systematic abuse of power ... persistent and repeated actions which are intended to intimidate or hurt another person ... (it) embraces direct and indirect behaviour, such as name-calling, rumour-mongering, social exclusion, and extortion ...”

A power imbalance is required for bullying to happen, but it is not limited to vertical aggression, as peers can bully one another, and subordinates can bully a supervisor. Bullying feeds into the greater social ill of violence in the country so the importance of a systematic and targeted preventative response cannot be overstressed.

In 2003, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) showed that 80% of South African employees had been exposed to hostile behaviour in their workplaces. Bullying in the workplace is one of the fastest-growing threats in the new millennium, and among the most-reported complaints worldwide, according to the ILO. This situation leads to higher employee absenteeism and a higher staff turnover. Victims can also suffer symptoms of severe post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), as a result; even bystanders can lodge claims against the employer, based on the doctrine of vicarious liability.

It has been said that bullying is being reinforced by the very nature of the “capitalist employment relationship.” In South Africa, too, workplace bullying has caught popular media attention, and articles on the topic appear frequently in newspapers and magazines. Legal interventions in South Africa, however, seem to be lacking, and will form the focus of more research.

Dr Smit and Prof Du Plessis lecture in the Faculty of Law at the UFS. **B**

UFS venture cleans up acid mine drainage



Johan Erasmus,
the electrical
engineer.

The system that puts oxygen
back into the water.



By Leonie Bolleurs

South Africa is one of the most important mining countries in the world, and there has been mining here since the 1870s. Although the mining industry has been responsible for significant development and employment, it also pollutes the ecology and water sources. Through the joint effort of a well-known mining company, the UFS, and the Technology Innovation Agency (UFS/TIA) SAENSE Group, a new treatment for Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) has been developed.

The system effectively treats the major contaminants found in acid mining wastewater. AMD is a term that describes water that has been contaminated with high concentrations of anions (negatively charged atoms) like sulphate as well as high metal concentrations, such as aluminium, copper, zinc, etc.

It is necessary to clean AMD because the chemical contaminants and the low pH are toxic to the aquatic environment as well as to any consumers of the water. AMD is also toxic to humans, and may leak occasionally into our natural drinking water supplies.

The UFS remediation systems use a reservoir tank into which the AMD is pumped. The water then flows passively (without



Mining equipment loading the barium-woodchip mix into the tank.



The mine's equipment mixing barium and woodchips.



Rohan Posthumus.



Dr Julio Castillo.

using energy) to the Barium Carbonate Dispersed Alkaline Substrate (BDAS) system. The system consists of four tanks filled with barium carbonate and woodchips. The metals and anions in the AMD react chemically with the barium carbonate and precipitates (forms solids). The solids stay in the tank while the clean water is released. At the end of the BDAS, there are steps to put oxygen back into the system. When all the barium carbonate is used up, the "waste" that remains in the tank might prove useful in other industries.

The efficacy and applicability of the research were demonstrated on site in Belfast, Mpumalanga where the team constructed a pilot plant in July 2014. This patented technology has treated 1 814 400 litres of Acid Mine Drainage to date with an outflow water quality that is accepted by the South African National Standards (SANS) 241:2006 & 2011 regulations for drinking water.

Rohan Posthumus from the (UFS/TIA) SAENSE Group said: "At this stage, we do not recommend that the water should be used as drinking water. Certainly it can lower water usage in mines while finding application in dust suppression of washing processes. The team would like to complete a full characterisation of the final released water, and they are very excited because there are currently no toxic by-products formed, and very basic filtration can even make the outflow drinking water."


The pilot plant uses barium carbonate on a fixed woodchip matrix to react chemically with the AMD in order to precipitate the pollutants. The BDAS system is the first system that removes sulphate and trace metals such as iron completely, while reducing electrical conductivity, salinity, and total dissolved solids (TDS) by 60 – 85%. The technology also uses the indigenous bacterial populations to purify other

"... we do not recommend that the water should be used as drinking water. Certainly it can lower water usage in mines while finding application in dust suppression of washing processes."

components in the water. This technology has also been patented (Patent number P49198ZAPO).

The UFS/TIA Platform creates an Intellectual Property Portfolio of novel genetics, materials, bioactive molecules and microbes, and their activities through research and training, to add value to industry and showcase effective applications to clients.

Prof Esta van Heerden's research group from the Department of Microbial, Biochemical, and Food Biotechnology has been working on AMD research for the last couple of years, but the development of the BDAS system was started in 2013 by post-doctoral student Dr Julio Castillo and his junior researcher, Rohan Posthumus. They first developed the system by conducting laboratory experiments and small-scale column experiments. They were partnered by a visionary coal mine in Mpumalanga that provided access to AMD and, eventually, access to the mine for their experiments.

The data from the BDAS system has led to two publications in peer-reviewed journals as well as a registered patent. 

Prof Melanie Walker

exemplifies UFS academic excellence with **international NRF A1 rating**

By Michelle Nothing

Part of the university's vision is to become recognised across the world for excellence in academic achievement. Prof Melanie Walker is the embodiment of this vision.

Prof Walker, Senior Research Professor at the UFS Centre for Research on Higher Education and Development (CRHED), has been awarded an A1 rating from the National Research Foundation (NRF) for her leading international research in the field of higher education. This rating acknowledges the high quality and wide impact of Prof Walker's work; she is recognised unequivocally by peers worldwide. "Achieving this outstanding rating," Prof Walker says, "is not just an individual achievement. I have had tremendous personal support and rich intellectual collaborations from wonderful colleagues on the way. The award also recognises the Rector's project to build a dynamic research culture at UFS."

Not only is her research extensive, but Prof Walker has committed over 20 years of her life to researching and writing about issues in education. The overarching frame of her work has been social justice and higher education for inclusive development within education and beyond in society. She is particularly interested in how higher education contributes to building a decent society by removing inequalities in its own policies and processes. Prof Walker also investigates opportunities into, through, and beyond education across dimensions of dis/advantage.

Prof Walker's list of achievements is quite remarkable. She has published more than 140 journal articles, books, book chapters, and professional publications, presented 88 funded seminars, keynotes, and refereed conference papers in South Africa, the UK, Europe, Australia, the USA, Canada, and Latin America, and has edited 23 journal issues. By the end of 2013, she had



Photo: Supplied

Prof Melanie Walker.

The overarching frame of her work has been social justice and higher education for inclusive development within education and beyond in society.

garnered over 1 800 citations. In addition to all this, she also fulfils multiple roles that include NRF Chair in Higher Education and Human Development, Vice-President of the international Human Development and Capability Association (HDCA) and Fellow of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf).

Not only does Prof Walker make a considerable contribution to research at the university, but her extensive networks also attract international scholars, which positions the UFS as an institution of truly global academic excellence. **B**



Staff | Personeel

One of the **biggest trees** in quantity surveying

By Cindé Greyling

At the end of last year, Dr Stephan Ramabodu completed his PhD in Quantity Surveying. For him, this was the highlight of his academic career that started in 2003 when he obtained his first degree at Kopsies.

Dr Ramabodu, who is currently a senior lecturer in the Department of Quantity Surveying, was initially appointed as part of a programme called Grow Your Own Timber at the UFS. This programme, which aims at assisting members to improve their academic and professional careers, served Dr Ramabodu well. "I was lucky! I wish more students could be taken through Grow Your Own Timber. It helps you to be grounded, with definitive milestones that you can evaluate to track your progress."

Not that growing his own timber was a new concept to Dr Ramabodu. He grew up in a very poor family from

Bolokanang, Petrusburg. "I am the firstborn from a family of five. And although my childhood circumstances were not ideal, I always wanted to succeed in life. Saying that I did not have money to study was never an option. I always found a way to help myself. My journey from the dust roads of my childhood to where I am now is one of perseverance; of converting stumbling blocks into stepping stones."

Dr Ramabodu's next goal is to become a professor. "I believe that knowledge is power. Luckily, my passions in life are reading and working hard – that helps!" However, he realises that the higher you climb any tree, the trickier it gets. "The higher you go, the more complex the problems you come across. But that should never deter you from your destiny. Know what you want, how to get there, then go for it with whatever means possible. And remember: always stay humble," this accomplished man advises. **B**



Dr Stephan Ramabodu and Dr Marlène Campbell, his study leader.

Photo: Leonie Bolleers

Nadine Lake's research addresses what most want to ignore: **corrective rape**

By Michelle Nothling

Nadine Lake believes that the only way to achieve gender equality is by living it. And she not only lives her beliefs, she dedicates her career to it.

As a lecturer and PhD fellow at the Centre for Africa Studies, Nadine's research focuses on the representation of 'corrective rapes' and black lesbian lives in media, literary, and visual texts. Many black lesbians in South Africa are raped and then murdered because of their sexuality. "Homosexuality in South Africa is often described as 'unAfrican' or 'unChristian', and my research aims to deconstruct representations of black lesbian experience as something that is 'unnatural'," Nadine says.

She is currently on sabbatical at Uppsala University in Sweden for 22 months to complete her doctoral studies after being awarded an Erasmus Mundus scholarship. "Sweden is one of the most progressive countries in terms of gender equality,"

Nadine says. "I wanted to experience something completely different, and I think Sweden does offer this in terms of gender relations. I was also drawn to the interdisciplinary focus at the Centre for Gender Research in Uppsala. I believe that an interdisciplinary approach is hugely beneficial for postgraduate studies."

Nadine's vision for her research is to challenge some of the common myths about African sexuality, and, more specifically, lesbian sexualities in South Africa. "I believe that adding to the existing literature on African sexualities will create a necessary awareness around issues which people sometimes prefer to ignore."

Furthermore, Nadine wishes for our university – and South Africa as a whole – to become continually more informed, sensitive, and open-minded about issues that affect racial and sexual minorities. As Nadine says, "If we can't express appreciation and respect for each other in an academic environment, then we can't hope to do the same in broader society. I hope that all South African citizens will realise the importance of gender equality in creating a more inclusive society." **B**

Nadine is currently on sabbatical at Uppsala University in Sweden for 22 months to complete her doctoral studies.



The University House in Uppsala, Sweden.



Nadine Lake.



Prof Naomi Morgan.



Prof Naomi Morgan en die Franse Ambassadeur, madame Elisabeth Barbier.



Prof Lucius Botes, Dekaan van die Fakulteit Geesteswetenskappe en prof Naomi Morgan.

Foto's: Jaco Pienaar

Van Frans op skool tot ridderskap by ambassade

Deur Stefan Lotter

Alle vroue droom van hul ridder op die wit perd, maar prof Naomi Morgan, dosent in die UV se Departement Afrikaans en Nederlands, Duits en Frans, het self 'n ridder van soorte geword.

Sy is in Januarie 2015 vereer met die gesogte *Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et des Lettres* (Ridder van die Orde van Kuns en Letterkunde) by die Franse ambassade in Pretoria. Hierdie is 'n Franse Orde wat op 2 Mei 1957 deur die Franse Minister van Kultuur in die lewe geroep is. Die doel is om erkenning te gee aan noemenswaardige bydraes tot die kuns en letterkunde, of die bevordering van hierdie rigtings.

Prof Morgan word erken vir haar vertaling van toneelstukke soos *Oskar en die Pienk Tannie*, asook haar vertaling van Afrikaanse liederes vir die Afri-Frans-versameling. Maar voordat sy 'n ridder van kuns en letterkunde geword het, het sy 'n verpad geloop in haar Franse studies, vertaling en loopbaan ...

Franse agtergrond en loopbaan

"Ek was in die baie gelukkige posisie dat Frans gedurende my hoërskoolloopbaan nog 'n vak by 'n hele paar Vrystaatse skole was, ook op Oranje, waar ek gematrikuleer het. Ek het 'n uitstekende onderwyseres gehad, Sanette Badenhorst.

Ek het nou nog die Jean Ferat-plaat met toonsettings van Aragon-gedigte wat sy vir my uit Frankryk saamgebring het.

"Ek het my eerste drie grade (BA Tale, BA Tale Honneurs Frans, MA Frans) by Kopsies verwerf. Na BA Tale is ek vir 'n jaar Parys toe as au pair om my gesproke Frans te verbeter. Met my terugkeer het ek ingeskryf vir Frans Honneurs. Ek het later 'n Switserse Konfederasiebeurs gekry waarmee ek vir sewe jaar aan die Universiteit van Genève studeer het. In 1990 het ek my doktorsgraad in Woord- en Beeldstudies van die Universiteit van Genève verwerf.

"Ek was later gelukkig genoeg om 'n pos as junior lektor in die departement waar ek gestudeer het (toe nog die Departement Frans) te kry. Later het Frans en Duits met Afrikaans en Nederlands saamgesmelt, en het dit 'n teelaarde vir kreatiewe samewerking geword," sê sy.

Belangstelling in vertaling

"Op skool en universiteit het ons reeds vertaal oefeninge gedoen, van Frans na Afrikaans en van Afrikaans na Frans. Deesdae praat vertaalkundiges van die konvensie om slegs na jou moedertaal te vertaal. Ons is egter opgelei om in albei rigtings te kan werk.

"Vertaling was vir 'n lang tyd vir my net 'n bron van ekstra inkomste, en was meesal nie literêr van aard nie. Toe vra 'n goeie vriend, Matthys Maree, my om Afrikaanse liedjies in Frans te vertaal (dit sou die Afri-Frans-projek word) en 'n Franse skrywer, Jean-Marie Le Clézio, wen die Nobelprys vir Letterkunde in 2008. Daar was geen Afrikaanse vertalings van sy werk nie, selfs nie 'n Engelse vertaling van 'n kort, outobiografiese roman getiteld *L'Africain* (*Die Afrikaan*) nie.

"'n Mens sou kon sê dat ek toe ernstig begin vertaal het," vertel prof Morgan. **B**

Tjellis met 'n doktorsgraad en 'n CD

Deur Coreli Roos

Sy wou 'n doktorsgraad doen wat prakties gebruik kan word, sê die tjellis, prof Anmari van der Westhuizen. Sy is in Januarie 2013 aangestel as hoof van die Odeion-strykkwartet van die Universiteit van die Vrystaat waar sy sedert Januarie 2015 ook adjunkprofessor is. 2015 sien ook die vrystelling van haar tweede solo-CD, *Romantic Sonatas*.

Prof Van der Westhuizen is een van slegs twee tjelliste in Suid-Afrika met 'n doktorsgraad. Haar graad is die eerste in die geskiedenis van die Odeion-strykkwartet. Sy het haar PhD in Musiekuitvoering, "Solo Violoncello music: a selective investigation into works composed between 1980 and 2010 and the compilation of a catalogue", in 2013 aan die Universiteit van Pretoria behaal en volle akademiese erekleure daarvoor verwerf. Toe sy in 2007 na Wene, Oostenryk, genooi is om alleen op die verhoog 'n 70-minute solouitvoering te gee, kon sy geen verwysings vind nie. "Ek het die leemte geïdentifiseer. Tjelliste kan my gedokumenteerde katalogus oor kontemporêre solo-musiek raadpleeg. Ek wou dit makliker maak."

Prof Van der Westhuizen is een van slegs twee tjelliste in Suid-Afrika met 'n doktorsgraad.

Sewentien jaar gelede, tydens haar agtjaarlange studieverblyf in Oostenryk, het sy haar eerste solo-CD in Stellenbosch saam met pianis Ilse Schumann opgeneem. Dit was binne 'n jaar uitverkoop. Hulle was Stellenbosse skoolmaats wat 27 jaar gelede vir die eerste keer in Oostenryk saam opgetree het. Daarna het baie gesamentlike uitvoerings gevolg. "Ons het dieselfde musiekaanvoeling." Schumann het uit Oostenryk gekom om haar in die Odeion te begelei vir die *Romantic Sonatas*-opname. Hulle het in Junie 'n bekendstellingsuitvoering in Wene. "Daarna sal ons in Suid-Afrika toer."

Onder haar leiding gaan die Odeion-strykkwartet van krag tot krag. Hul uitmuntende spel het hulle verlede jaar 'n Kanna

en 'n Vryfeesprijs, asook 'n Fiësta-benoeming besorg. In Junie neem hulle op uitnodiging deel aan die Universiteit van Birmingham se jaarlikse internasionale kamermusiekfees vanwaar prof Van der Westhuizen vir haar CD-bekendstelling na Wene reis. **B**

Prof Anmari van der Westhuizen.



Foto: Francois van Hatt

SA se top-afrigter

is 'n **Kovsie!**

Deur Stefan Lotter

KovsieSport het in die laaste jaar groot sukses in verskeie kodes beleef. KovsieTennis was die USSA (Universiteit Sport Suid-Afrika) se kampioene vir 2014, terwyl ook KovsieNetbal die Varsity-netbaltoernooi in dieselfde jaar verower het. En hoe vars is die Shimlas se triomf in die 2015 Varsitybeker-rugby nie nog in ons gedagtes nie?

Al hierdie oorwinnings maak DB Prinsloo, die Hoof van KovsieSport, baie trots op sy personeel en studente. Boonop is Prinsloo verlede jaar ook as Suid-Afrika se Afrigter van die Jaar aangewys. Hy beskryf hierdie gevoel soos volg:

DB Prinsloo.

“Die toekenning was 'n ongelooflike eer en beloning vir jare van afrigting, wat soms maar 'n alleenwêreld is. Dit is die prestasies van ons atlete wat sulke toekenning na jou kant toe laat kom. Alle eer aan baie Kovsie nasionale atlete, asook nasionale medaljewenners. Hulle het dit vir my moontlik gemaak.

“Die beslissende vertonings was sekerlik die briljante prestasie van een van die wêreld se beste middelfstandatlete en Oud-Kovsiestudent (nog steeds lid van die Kovsie Atletiekklub sedert 2001 toe hy 'n eerstejaar was), Johan Cronjé, met sy bronsmedalje op die Wêreld Senior Atletiek Kampioenskap in Moskou in 2013. Ek kan nie anders nie as om ook my mede-itemafrigters by Kovsies, Sarina en Danie Cronjé, te bedank nie. My dagtaak neem my daaglik op verskillende tye op baie verskillende paaie en verpligtinge. Ek daag baie keer laat by oefeninge op (wat ek haat), maar dan is daar bekwame hande om mee te help.”

In 2015 bereik die plaaslike atletiekseisoen sy hoogtepunt met al die SA Kampioenskappe tydens April. Dit is vir KovsieAtletiek belangrik om hier goed te vertoon met al hulle jong atlete. In Johan Cronjé se geval word daar nou nader beweeg aan die deelneemseisoen wat teen einde Mei in Europa begin.


“Die jong atlete lê my ook nog altyd na aan die hart, want hulle is ons Internasionale sterre van die toekoms,” sê Prinsloo.

Watter vooruitsigte is daar nou verder vir Prinsloo as afrigter en vir sy Kovsie-atlete vir Rio 2016?

“Ons is volstoom aan die voorberei vir die 2015 Wêreldkampioenskap in Beijing einde Augustus en ook die Olimpiese Spele 2016 in Rio. Hiermee saam moet ons versigtig en deeglike beplanning rondom al die Diamantligabyeenkomste in 2015 en 2016 doen om sodoende te verseker dat ons genoeg deelneem, asook blootstelling aan die spesifieke wedlope kry, maar ons moet ook versigtig wees om nie te veel deel te neem nie.” **P**



Foto: Leonie Bolleus

The background of the entire page is a textured, light brown surface. Scattered across this surface are several large, irregular, leaf-like or petal-like shapes in various colors: white, light blue, light green, light orange, and light purple. These shapes are connected by thin black lines, suggesting they are part of a larger, abstract structure. The lighting is soft, creating subtle shadows and highlights on the shapes and the background.

Students and Sport | Studente en Sport

Joolkom-lede

wat terugkom, maak dit moontlik

Deur Stefan Lotter



Heloise van Niekerk lei in 2014 haar eerste Jooloptog.

Hulle sê “Een maal ’n joler, altyd ’n joler.”

En by die Universiteit van die Vrystaat is dit verseker die geval as dit by Kowsie Jool kom, veral as ’n mens kyk hoeveel voormalige Joolkomiteelede en –voorsitters elke jaar in Januarie terugkeer om by Kowsie Jool uit te help.

“Met alles wat deesdae rondom Jool gebeur, sal Jool nie moontlik wees sonder die jaarlikse hulp en bydrae van oud-Jolers nie,” sê Karen Scheepers, Hoof van KowsieJool en Assistentdirekteur: Studentesake.

Scheepers is al 26 jaar in die Joolkantoor en sy meen dat oud-Jolers oral hand by sit tydens Jool. Van die aandkollekties, tot albei die Saterdagoptogte, tot die konsert wat Jool afsluit en boonop nog die oggend daarna ook ...

“Wanneer ons almal die Sondag na Jool uit is op ons voete, sal iemand soos Dandré Brand (Joolkom 2008–2011) nog kunstenaars by hul gastehuis gaan oplaai en lughawe toe neem.

“Wanneer almal van ons in die huidige Joolkantoor begin moeg en moedeloos raak, dan is die oud-Jolers altyd ’n inspirasie vir die huidige Joolkom om aan te hou,” sê sy.

Saam met Brand is daar nog vele ander lede wat tot vandag nog hand bysit. LeRoux Germishuizen (Joolkom 2007–2009) doen tans die ontwerp van al die Joolplakkate, –pamflette en *Ritsems*. Hugo le Roux (Joolkom 2004–2007) het tot twee jaar gelede nog jaar na jaar die optog gelei.



“Met alles wat deesdae rondom Jool gebeur, sal Jool nie moontlik wees sonder die jaarlikse hulp en bydrae van oud-Jolers nie”.

Van verlede jaar af het Heloise van Niekerk (2003–2006) die optog begin lei. Sy is die eerste vrou wat dit doen, omdat dit nog altyd maar as 'n “man se tipe werk” beskou is. Toe Van Niekerk verlede jaar haar eerste optog gelei het, was Hannes van Dyk (SR Jool 2008/2009) die bestuurder van die voorste trekker en soveel as ses voormalige Joolkom-voorsitters was daar om te help waar hul kon.

“Ek dink daar is mense wat sal wil aanhou studeer net om te bly Jool,” sê Scheepers. **B**



Foto's: Verskaf



Ver links: Keneue Mahlohana (middel voor) en Thabiso Maloka (regs voor) geniet jool saam met die studente.

Links: Dandré Brand, Iselma Parkin en Edrick van der Merwe by 2014 se Jooloptog.



Photo: Thabo Kessah

BCom Extended Programme student Isaac Msibi receiving a trophy and a cheque from Campus Principal Prof Prakash Naidoo and Patricia Kissane, Regional Manager: Compass Group. Msibi is the current Dux Student on the Qwaqwa Campus.

Extended programme student believes in CASH

By Thabo Kessah

When Isaac Msibi matriculated with 80% in Accounting in 2010, he thought the doors to furthering his studies would open automatically. Little did he know that he would stay at home the following year through a lack of study opportunities.

His conditions were compounded by the fact that his parents were pensioners who had to take care of him and his five siblings. But instead of giving up, Isaac used 2011 to revisit his priorities, and eventually applied to enroll for a BCom degree at the UFS Qwaqwa Campus.

"Like many of my high school friends, I nearly gave up as I come from a very poor background," said Isaac.

"My English results did not make things easier for me. I had a 31 admission points score, but my level three in English nearly lost me the bright future I am now staring at. As learners at high school we tend to focus more on certain subjects that we think are better at than others and ignore the rest. I feel that it was very irresponsible of me to concentrate on getting the best marks in Accounting and ignoring an equally important subject like English," he said.


"I struggled to apply for a BCom degree because of my English. I ended up enrolling for the extended programme which I truly believe made me a better student.

"I am aware that many of the students see extended programmes as a form of punishment. I did too, but I quickly

realised that it offered me a second chance to do my best in all my subjects. The sooner extended programme students realise their potential, the better for them to excel and do better than their mainstream counterparts," said Isaac.

Today, Isaac is known as the Qwaqwa Campus Best Performing Student in 2014 (Dux student), having won six awards during last year's Student Excellence Awards.

When asked how he did it, Isaac said: "Class attendance is the single most important aspect of our studies we need to take care of. I also believe in the CASH in Mind, CASH in Pocket principle that my Accounting lecturer, Andrew Mohan, loves emphasising. CASH stands for **concentration** in class and when studying, paying **attention** to detail, **sincerity** in whatever you do, and **hard work** at all times."

Looking into the future, Isaac would like to study for honours and master's degrees in Economics. "I believe my future lies in this field, and I hope to make a positive contribution to my impoverished community of Intabazwe in Harrismith and beyond," said Isaac, who enjoys an occasional good game of tennis with his Economics lecturer, Calvin Mudzingiri. 

Proteas netball gets even more

Free State flavour

By Ruan Bruwer

As if Free State players were not already well represented in the senior Proteas netball team, the national side has added a further touch of Free State flavour with the appointment of Martha Mosoahle-Samm as one of the assistant coaches.

The former UFS student took up the position in January.

The 36-year-old Mosoahle-Samm played 56 tests for the Proteas over a period of six years. An attacking wing and centre in her playing days, the former Protea captain announced her retirement from international netball in 2006. She continued playing provincially for Gauteng North after leaving Bloemfontein in 2006.

She started her coaching career in 2009 and was selected as the assistant coach of the national under-19 team only a year later.

Her first involvement at the highest coaching level was last year with the National Fast5 team (the netball version of sevens rugby) as assistant coach.

She coached the Golden Fireballs (Central Gauteng) to a third place in last year's Brutal Fruit Netball league, and nearly caused an upset in the semi-finals against the eventual winners, the Free State Crinums, losing by just three goals.

Photo: Supplied



Martha Mosoahle-Samm.

Mosoahle-Samm made her debut for the senior Kopsie team in her first year as a BCom Social Sciences student, and played for them between 1997 and 1999.

Apart from coaching, she runs a business building sport facilities.

Mosoahle-Samm says her parents and family still live in the Rose City, and she visits them regularly. **B**

Adèle Niemand, Karla Mostert and Maryka Holzhausen, all current and former Kopsie students were all guarantee selections for the Proteas this year and form the backbone of the national side. Lauren-Lee Christians was also included to represent South Africa at the European championships in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

This will be an important year for the Proteas with the World Cup being staged in Australia in August.

Another member of the management team, the conditioning coach, Ilze du Pisani, is another former Kopsie student.



Martha playing for Central Gauteng in 2005 at the national championships.



From the left are the captains of the sports teams: Karla Mostert, AJ Coertzen, Duke Munro and Christi Potgieter.



Sports hat trick great showcase

When a sports-loving matric learner opens the newspaper and sees that Kovsies are the national champions in rugby, netball and tennis, it will play a big part in his or her decision on where to study.

These words spoken by Duke Munro, Kovsies' tennis captain, capture the magnitude of the UFS's recent hat trick on the sports front.

Our bragging rights are truly magnificent – we are now the Varsity Cup rugby champions for the first time, the Varsity Sports netball champions and the USSA tennis champions.

Kovsies recently celebrated this achievement by honouring the three sporting teams at the Red Square on the Bloemfontein Campus.

According to Karla Mostert, Kovsies' netball captain, these achievements are made easier by the support the athletes receive from the university.

"We have such great facilities and people that support us," she said.

"Prof (Jonathan) Jansen also gives us his financial and personal support.

"The coaches and well-known visiting sportspeople also helps.

"All of the above makes it easier for us to achieve great heights."

These coaches were Franco Smith (rugby), Marnus Kleynhans (tennis) and Burtha de Kock (netball).

The netball team – for a second year running, and the tennis team – for eight years in a row, have been on the forefront of their codes for the past few years, but it was the rugby team that also came to the party in 2015.

Not only did Shimlas beat Pukke by a mammoth 63-33 in the Varsity Cup final, but the UFS also hosted its first ever final at Shimla Park – with great success.

The rugby achievements don't end there either. Kovsies also made the finals of the Young Guns and Residence league (Vishuis being their representative) in the Varsity Cup.

"These achievements (rugby, netball and tennis) make one proud to be a Kovsie and everyone can associate with Kovsies," said AJ Coertzen, the Shimlas' captain.

The UFS Varsity Sevens rugby team.



KovsieSport has added yet another trophy to their ever growing collection when they won the Varsity Sevens rugby tournament. The undisputed UFS sevens team outwitted the University of Pretoria (UP) with a 24-19 score in the final match at Villager FC in Cape Town on Monday 27 April 2015. This is the first time any university managed to become the unbeaten Varsity Cup and the Varsity Sevens champions. This UFS sevens team was coached by former UFS sevens players Erick Colyn and AJ Coertzen.

for Kovsies

Munro said he is very proud of Shimlas' victory.

According to him, being the South African university champions in three different sporting codes certainly means a lot and also speaks volumes for the quality of coaching that athletes receive at the UFS.

The teams were congratulated on their achievements at the Autumn Graduation ceremony as well as Open Day 2015. **B**



The KovsieTennis team.



The KovsieNetball team.



The FNB Shimlas.

Drie Kovies maak in 2015 hulle SA-hokkie debuut

Deur Ruan Bruwer

Ná 'n briljante 2014 hokkiejaar vir die Vrystaat het 2015 op 'n hoogtepunt begin toe vier Kovie-vrouehokkiespelers vir die senior Suid-Afrikaanse span gespeel het.

Liné Malan, Cornelle Botha, Nicole Walraven en Tanya Britz was vir die Proteas in 'n toetsreeks teen Chili en België in Kaapstad in aksie, met eersgenoemde drie wat vir die eerste keer die groen en goud gedra het.

Walraven, 'n verdediger, was in al tien toetse in aksie en Malan, 'n skakel, het nege keer gespeel.

Botha (skakel) het twee keer speelkans gekry en Britz (doelskieter) se vyf wedstryde het haar aantal toetse tot 44 opgestoot. Op 22-jarige ouderdom is sy nou een van die Proteas se mees ervare spelers.

Sy moes lank met die wêreldrekordhouer vir doele, Pietie Coetzee, om 'n plek meeding.

Hulle sê hulle het nie een vir seker geweet of hulle speelkans in Kaapstad sou kry nie, aangesien hulle deel van 'n groep van 29 spelers was.

Britz (beeldende kunste), Walraven (menslike bewegings-kunde), Malan (biokinetikus) en Botha (BRek honneurs) is almal senior studente aan die Universiteit van die Vrystaat.

Met die uitsondering van Botha het die ander drie ook in 2013 vir die nasionale o.21-span in die Wêreldbeker uitgedraf.

Die Kovies het in Mei vanjaar 'n bielle van 'n span in die Varsityhokkie-reeks in die veld gestoot, met Izelle Lategan wat die span se totale Proteas op vyf te staan gebring het.

Wat reken hulle is die rede vir die opbloei in vrouehokkie?

"Ons het nie die grootste name in afrigtingskringe nie. Daarvoor word deur innovasie en harde werk opgemaak," sê Britz.

Botha reken spelers moet harder werk om hier raakgesien te word en volgens Malan is die ondersteuningsstelsel fantasties. Sy verwys na die studenteraad wat hulle op die lughawe met die terugkeer uit die Kaap terug verwelkom het.

Walraven sê Kovies se passie vir hokkie is besonder.

Frans van der Watt, KovieHokkie-bestuurder sê: "Die slagspreuk by KovieHokkie is 'No ifs or buts... only results'. Dit is 'n samevatting van die werksetiek wat ons die afgelope drie jaar by KovieHokkie gesien het. Dit is die gesindheid waarmee ons hokkiespelers inklim, hard werk en ook goeie resultate in die Varsityhokkie-reeks gelewer het, asook met ons insluiting in die Protea-span." **B**



Tanya Britz,
Nicole Walraven
en Liné Malan.



Alumni

Alumnus in sustainable agriculture makes a difference in field of animal nutrition

By Leonie Bolleurs

The university is always proud to hear from former students making their mark in the world of work. One of these former students is Dr Douglas Nkosi, who completed his Master's and PhD degrees at the Centre for Sustainable Agriculture in Sustainable Agriculture, Rural Development and Extension.



Dr Douglas Nkosi, Prof Debbie Chernea, Animal nutritionist at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York State and Prof Izak Groenewald from the Centre for Sustainable Agriculture at the UFS.

Dr Nkosi is an internationally well-respected silage expert who has published several papers in accredited scientific journals. He is also a member of several societies, and serves as associate editor (on small ruminant nutrition) for the *South African Journal of Animal Science*. He has been a regular reviewer of research papers for national and international scientific journals (*Animal Feed Science and Technology*) and research proposals for the NRF.

Today, Dr Nkosi works as a Senior Researcher for the Small Ruminant Nutrition section in the Department of Animal Nutrition of the Animal Production Institute (API) in Irene.

His research interests include:

- Enhancing forage conservation and nutritive value with microbial inoculation and feed additives
- Food safety issues relating to forage-fed livestock,

- Development of alternative feeding strategies in local communities for sustainable rural agriculture, and
- Evaluation of methods that quantify on-farm animal performance changes.

To a class of youngsters, he describes his work as “animal nutrition playing a significant role in improving animal production, hence improving our livelihoods through the supply of quality animal products, e.g. meat, milk and eggs.”

One of the highlights in Dr Nkosi's career was when he was awarded the Norman Borlaug Fellowship Training Program by the United State Department of Agriculture (USDA). There, he worked at the Kansas State University, in Manhattan, Kansas on collaborative research that evaluated the effects of bacterial inoculants and enzymes on the fermentation quality of sweet sorghum.

Prof Izak Groenewald, former head of the Centre for Sustainable Agriculture, has only positive comments about Dr Nkosi, “The development path of Douglas is unique in many ways. In his younger years, he made a firm decision that he would rise and make a difference for himself and those around him in sometimes challenging environments. He is today an internationally-renowned scientist and publisher. When you look for a person with exceptional human capital growth, then you will find Douglas. Our relationship started from postgraduate student to study leader to mentor to fellow scientist to somebody whom I can confide in for advice and guidance.”

Some of his latest reading includes *Animal Nutrition*, 7th Edition (2010), *The Biochemistry of Silage* (McDonald et al), Second Ed., 1991; and *Livestock Production Systems: Principles and Practice* (C. Maree and N.H. Casey). Other joys in his life besides his research are his family and friends, and developments in his career. **B**

Individual meaning of today transforms into universal values of tomorrow, says alumnus

By Mamosa Makaya

Dr Solomon Oupa Makola is the Campus Director of the Central University of Technology's Welkom Campus. His interests lie in psycho-education and practice, youth and community engagement. **Mamosa Makaya** spoke to Solomon about his work, forthcoming books, and his vision for the youth.

What sparked your interest in youth development and what projects are you involved in?

When I was a student of psychology, I explored numerous theories and philosophies. During my postgraduate studies, I discovered the work of Viktor Frankl by chance in a collection entitled, *On the Way to Meaning: Essays in remembrance of Viktor Frankl*. It was a classic case of serendipity because, in this book, I found what I was looking for. This led me to discover *Man's Search for Meaning*. I became very interested in Frankl's philosophy of finding meaning in life, so much so that I developed my theoretical background on logotherapy, resulting in my passion to help young people learn how to apply these principles in their personal lives and how to inspire others.

My target audience is the youth because they, more than any other generation, are struggling with finding meaning and purpose in life.

What is the title of your book and the subject matter you explore in it?

I have two books which will be published this year. The first is titled *Find Meaning Stop Wondering* and the second, *Pimp the pain*, which presents some of the practical ways through which young people can find meaning and purpose in their everyday lives. This resulted in my creating a platform on Facebook to allow them to express themselves.

As an alumnus of the UFS, what role has your alma mater played in shaping and supporting your development?

I graduated with a PhD in Child Psychology at the university in 2007. My books were inspired by the research I conducted under the guidance of Dr Henriette van den Berg, Director of the Postgraduate School, on meaning in life and life stressors as predictors of first-year academic performance. Studying at UFS was the springboard I needed.



Photo: Supplied

Dr Solomon Oupa Makola.

What message do you have for aspiring academics who are interested in youth development and the future of this country?

Take the knowledge you acquire to make significant contributions in shaping the future of this country; the individual meaning of today transforms into the universal values of tomorrow. Academics, policy makers, and opinion leaders should aim to inspire young people to achieve their goals.

Dr Makola received two awards at the 20th Congress of the Psychological Society of South Africa (PsySSA) in Durban. He also received an award from the Counselling Division of PsySSA for being an outstanding psychologist. **B**

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



University of the Free State | PO Box 339,
Bloemfontein, 9300 | South Africa

www.ufs.ac.za



UFSUV



UFSweb



UFSweb

