

dumela



April 2010

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

Kampusse kry verjongingsinspuiting

Die *grande dame** in Bloemfontein en die pragtige jongeling – Qwaqwa-kampus in die Oos-Vrystaat is stilweg besig om 'n verjongingskuur van amper R200 miljoen te ondergaan. En dit is nie botoks nie. **Leatitia Pienaar** het bietjie by Nico Janse van Rensburg (Bestuurder: Fisiese Beplanning) gaan aanklop, en hier volg 'n blik op van die ontwikkelings wat aan die gang is en wat in die nabye toekoms verwag kan word.



PEOPLE



EVENTS



NEWS

'n Infrastruktuurtoekenning van R147 miljoen van die Departement van Hoër Onderwys en Opleiding, wat strek van 2010 tot 2012, gaan van die projekte moontlik maak. Van die projekte word uit ons universiteit se eie sak gefinansier. Een van die projekte wat die toekenning gefinansier gaan word, is 'n nuwe gebou vir ons Fakulteit Opvoedkunde. Bouwerk aan hierdie gebou kan moontlik in Mei vanjaar begin.

'n Nuwe Opvoedkunde-gebou gaan ook op ons Qwaqwa-kampus gebou word.

Nico sê hy is baie opgewonde oor die infrastruktuurbeplanning wat ons universiteit van die Departement van Hoër Onderwys en Opleiding gekry het, maar daar is nog baie behoeftes wat aangespreek moet word. Een van Fisiese Beplanning se prioriteite vir 2010 is om projekte te begin implementeer met hierdie infrastruktuurbeplanning. Ander prioriteite, volgens Nico is die onderhoud van bestaande infrastruktuur; die optimale benutting van bestaande fasiliteite asook bestaande ongebruikte areas.

Bouwerk aan die nuwe gebou van sowat R40 miljoen vir ons Fakulteit Gesondheidswetenskappe op die terrein waar die voertuig-stoor en Hertz was, het in April begin. Hier kom 'n lesinglokaal vir 200 studente, vyf lokale vir 100 studente elk van die Skool vir Geneeskunde en Arbeidsterapie, asook kantore. Dié ontwikkeling sal 'n

eenheid met die bestaande gebou van ons Fakulteit Gesondheidswetenskappe en die C.R. de Wet-gebou vorm.

Bouwerk is ook al ver gevorder aan die nuwe gebou van ons Fakulteit Ekonomiese en Bestuurswetenskappe en die huidige fase van die opgradering van die Chemie-gebou. In die volgende fase sal aandag gegee word aan die herinrigting van kantore en die buitekant van die Chemie-gebou.

Nuwe koshuise word op ons Qwaqwa-kampus gebou. Die ontwikkeling deur ons universiteit maak voorsiening vir 200 beddens en 'n private ontwikkeling vir 500 beddens. Lees meer oor die ontwikkelings op ons Qwaqwa-kampus op bl. 19.

'n Nuwe eksamensentrum sal in die Kagiso-gesellie ingerig word en lesinglokaal oor die hele kampus sal in die vakansietyd opgeknep word. Die lesinglokaal van Opvoedkunde was in die April-vakansie aan die beurt met die lesinglokaal in die Flippie Groenewoud-gebou wat vir die Julie-vakansie geskeduleer is. Genmin en Stabilis se lesinglokaal sal in Desember aan die beurt kom.

Die foyer van die Odeion word opgradeer en enkele maande gelede is opknappingswerk en die herinrigting van die Callie Human-sentrum (R7 miljoen) asook aan die Posafdeling in die George du Toit-administrasiegebou afgehandel.

Waarvoor ons nog moet uitkyk, is die verbetering aan die Argitektuur-gebou, die Bioteχνologie-gebou, die Chemie-laboratoriums op ons Hoofkampus en Qwaqwa en nuwe vaardigheidslaboratoriums.

Dienswerkers se kwartiere, waarvan daar 34 oor ons kampus in Bloemfontein versprei is, gaan ook ten bedrae van R1 miljoen opgeknep word.

Dan het ons nog nie gepraat van die nuwe ingangshek by Roosmaryn, die parkeerareas soos by ons UV-Sasol-Biblioteek nie, en herinrigting in koshuise en ander geboue wat reeds 'n geruime tyd aan die gang is nie.

Ook in die pypplyn is die nuwe studentebehuising wat vir 2 000 studente op ons Hoofkampus beplan word. Hierdie projek sal in fases van 500 elk aangepak word.

Dit is duidelik dat daar nuut en vars na die hele infrastruktuur-opset by ons universiteit gekyk word. So het Fisiese Beplanning self ingetrek in 'n ou ateljee van Beeldende Kuns wat vir vyf jaar onbenut gestaan het. Eerder as om dit te stroop is dit teen die helfte van die koste in 'n gebou omskep waarop enigeen waarlik trots kan wees.

* "Woman, esp. an older one, of great dignity or prestige" – www.yourdictionary.com

An English version is available at:
<http://www.ufs.ac.za/infrastructure>



Since 1987 first-year architecture students have been building huts on campus annually as part of an introduction to architectural studies at our Department of Architecture. This year Prof. Jonathan Jansen, our Rector and Vice-Chancellor visited the small community of 27 huts in the veld behind the Rag Farm, acknowledging the quality of both the programme and staff of this department.

FOTO'S: GERHARD LOUW



Hou die blink kant bo, sê die Afrikaanse gesegde. En dit is ook wat ons met hierdie uitgawe van *Dumela* doen; nie omdat ons moet nie, maar omdat ons so baie studente en personeel hier op ons kampus het wat presteer.

Frank Nkoana, ons Direkteur: Akademiese Studentedienste, deel sy visie om hierdie afdeling by ons universiteit uitnemend en gebruikersvriendelik te maak.

Vanuit ons Fakulteit Ekonomiese en Bestuurswetenskappe vertel Leon Bezuidenhoud ons hoe belangrik ons betrokkenheid by ons gemeenskappe is om 'n verskil in die lewens van ander te maak.

Ons is ook trots op die opening van die Jonathan Edwards-sentrum en ons verbintenis met Yale Universiteit. Niemand kon dit beter stel as prof. Jonathan Jansen, ons Rektor en Visekanselier nie. "A university is only as good as the company it keeps."

Dit is nie net op eie bodem waar ons beïndruk nie. Adv. Wessel Oosthuizen van die Sentrum vir

from the editor

Finansiële Beplanningsreg doen sulke goeie werk dat die internasionale liggaam, die Finansiële Beplanningsraad, hom gekies het as die voorsitter van een van hulle panele.

Op 'n ander toon – Dikgapane Makhetha het met Ninette Pretorius van die Departement Musiek gesels oor die wêreldklasuitvoerings wat deur hierdie departement gefasiliteer word. Lees meer oor hulle op bl. 9.

En as jy gedink het dit is nie moontlik om soveel prestasies aan een instelling te koppel nie, het jy nog nie met Kasia Baker kennis gemaak nie. Hierdie vrou vir haar man, ma en MBA-student vertel haar storie vir Lize du Plessis.

Dan vereenselwig ons ons ook met mense soos prof. Dingie Janse van Rensburg wat in dieselfde

asem as Madiba genoem word. Net soos Madiba het hy ook onlangs 'n eredoktersgraad van die Universiteit van Antwerpen ontvang vir sy kundigheid op onder meer die terrein van sosiale beleid in gesondheidsorg.

Paton Dennison, een van ons regstudente, wys van watter stoffasie hy gemaak is om as een van net twee studente in Suid-Afrika 'n beurs van die Nelson Mandela-stigting te ontvang.

Soos wat die een storie na die ander voortbou op ons kollegas en studente se prestasies, open ons die deur na 'n beter more. 'n More waar ons drome vir ons universiteit en sy mense 'n realiteit word.

Groete tot more

Leonie

VOLOP PARKERING BESKIKBAAR



Die nuwe parkeerarea naby ons UV-Sasol-biblioteek en ons Fakulteit Opvoedkunde

details

'n Mens hoor soms klagtes dat hier nie parkeerplek op ons Hoofkampus beskikbaar is nie. Daarom het Leatitia Pienaar 'n bietjie by Ria Deysel van Fisiese Hulpbronne en Willie Frankim van Beskermingsdienste gaan aanklop. Hier is die antwoorde op van die vrae wat sy gevra het:

Waar is nog oop parkering beskikbaar:

- Odeion: Feitlik die hele area agter die Odeion is daagliks 99% onbeset. Hierdie parkeerarea is binne loopafstand van die George du Toit-gebou, die Fakulteit Regswetenskappe, Landbou en 'n groot aantal koshuise.
- Die Callie Human-sentrum en die tennisbane in Graduandi-laan: Vanaf die hoek van die tennisbane tot onder by die Ou Sportkantoor is daar meestal aan weerskante van die pad baie oop parkering, behalwe met gradeplegtighede en ander aktiwiteite

by die Callie Human-sentrum.

- P1: die nuwe oop parkering by die nuwe taxi-staanplek: Ongeveer 20% hiervan is oop parkering. Die area word goed deur studente en personeel benut.
- Nuwe parkeerarea agter ons UV-Sasol-Biblioteek: Dit is meestal vol geparkeer, maar nuwe parkeerplek word geskep.
- Farmakologie: Ongeveer 20% oop parkering is beskikbaar.
- DF Malherbe-hek/Gesondheidswetenskappe: Baie oop parkering, na gelang van klasse.

Toegekende parkeerplekke: is daar nog plek beskikbaar?

- Soos personeel kanselleer vanweë bedanking en aftrede kom gereserveerde parkeerplekke beskikbaar en word dit geallokeer. 'n Waglys, wat deur die Parkeerafdeling beheer word, dui presies aan hoeveel parkering in 'n spesifieke area beskikbaar is.
- Afdakke is by die Scaena en Callie Human beskikbaar, maar daar is geen aanvraag nie (personeel stel nie belang om hier te parkeer nie).
- P6: Voorheen betaalde parkering is nou in die

proses om gereserveerde parkering te raak (vir departemente, aflaaisones, pasiënte/kliënte van akademiese departemente, parkering vir gestremde personeel en studente, asook parkering vir personeel).

Gaan daar nog parkeerareas gebou of aangelê word?

Nuwe parkering agter die biblioteek is in die proses om gebou te word.

As 'n mens al gewonder het hoe ons met ander tersiële instellings in die land vergelyk, kan 'n mens maar net dankbaar wees dat jy parkering het of binne loopafstand kan kry, veral as 'n mens daaraan dink dat meer as 30 000 voertuie per dag deur ons hekke beweeg.

By sommige ander universiteite moet personeel en studente buite die kampus parkeer. As hulle wel op die kampus kan parkeer, is dit redelik ver van die geboue af.

Ons universiteit is een van baie min universiteite wat al sy voertuie op die terrein toelaat. Die Universiteit van Pretoria laat byvoorbeeld geen voorgraadse studente se motors op kampus toe nie en dié van nagraadse studente slegs in die middag.

Dumela is compiled by the Division Corporate Communication at the University of the Free State

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By James Letuka

Sport fosters common identity amongst all Kovsies

James Letuka.



PHOTO: LIZE-MARIE SMIT

Over the past few years – more so over the last two years – our university has pronounced itself

strongly as being or striving to become a university of choice. The desire has become more pronounced with the arrival of Prof. Jonathan Jansen, our new Rector and Vice-Chancellor at Kovsies in 2009.

The front-page article by Merridy Wilson-Strydom in *Dumela* November 2009-6 entitled, "Are our students prepared for life?" aptly sums up what the role of an institution should be: "preparing our students for life". Although her article is intended to deal with the academic preparedness of first-year students in numeracy and mathematics as well as language proficiency for academic work, the question asked is applicable to the inter-relationships

amongst students as well. This is where sports at Kovsies also come in, in that whilst the academics grapple with the core business of academia, sports bring students and staff members from different and divergent backgrounds together on the sports fields. Think of the type of society our students are expected to live and work in after completing their studies. Will they be sufficiently prepared to deal with it?

“There can never be a better vehicle than sports to fulfil this critically important role of bringing people together.”

Students can get involved in sports by any one of the three ways:

- playing competitively and representing a hostel, a private club or our university;
- playing for recreational reasons; or
- being around to support the representative university teams.

How can we claim to have prepared our students for life if we could not get them to interact on a sports field where there is less pressure upon them?

It is critically important even for those students who do not participate in our university teams to recognise the fact that all those representative teams do duty for our entire university. Our university teams are worthy of everybody's support. A pertinent example is that of our Shimlas Rugby Team who played in the FNB Varsity Cup. The players in this team are carrying our university flag high and therefore are worthy of everybody's unconditional and unwavering support.

Sports at Kovsies are one of those things that can foster common identity amongst all Kovsies. Our sportsmen and sportswomen should realise that only excellent performance by our representative teams will attract supporters. Who wants to be associated with losing teams? Nobody.

KovsieSport is making a clarion call to all those that are connected to our university, across the board, to get involved in sports at Kovsies. One does not have to look too far into the past to see the power of sports in bringing the nation together. The case in point is the FIFA Confederation Cup that was played in South Africa in 2009. This spectacle drew people from different backgrounds together, even those people who might not previously have followed the playing of soccer. Look at the hype that is caused by the 2010 FIFA World Cup due to start on 11 June 2010 to 11 July 2010!!

This phenomenal international sporting event brings the nation together for a variety of reasons. Some are drawn to it by economic and business reasons whilst others are drawn to it by the entertainment that it will provide. Who can forget 1995 when the Springboks won the Rugby World Cup and Mr Mandela wore Francois Pienaar's no 6 jersey when congratulating the team? Remember the multitudes of the South Africans that united behind the Springboks'.

[MY
VIEW]

Your health and **safety** comes first

At the main entrance gate of our university our wonderful marketing staff has placed brightly coloured banners proclaiming the name of this university and signaling the new era which we are about to embark on in the quest to become Africa's leading university. Less than 10 metres from the guards at the boom gates, these banners have been disappearing one by one as thieves steal the cloth and disappear. There are many stories in this simple observation.

One story is about the way in which crime has become so commonplace in South Africa that brazen thieves along a major road and in full view of security could steal with such abandon. Another story is about the quality of our security—how can this happen under the noses of those who are supposed to protect the persons and property of the university?

We are about to do something about this. I have received over one hundred letters and e-mails advising senior leadership on how to make the campus more

secure. Thank you.

Your most common responses were the following:

- The visibility of security on campus
- The installation of security cameras across the campus
- The enforcement of controlled access at the gates and/or at entrances to buildings
- The provision of alarm devices (such as sirens) to key personnel in buildings
- The enhancement of the capacity of security to arrest criminals

The Rectorate is giving serious attention to these and other proposals. We are determined to make the campus safe, and to track down anyone who threatens the security and safety of our staff and students. This will cost money, but your health and safety comes first. Bear with us as we move quickly to secure the campus against criminals. We will keep reporting to you on the progress made. - Prof. Jonathan Jansen



FILL
THE GAP

LEON:

geken as
iemand wat 'n
verskil maak

Deur Igno van Niekerk



Leon Bezuidenhoud is stilweg passievol oor sy werk. As hy begin vertel wat sy werk behels, besef 'n mens weer eens watter ongelooflike bydrae ons universiteit tot die gemeenskap lewer. Die Kowsie-welwillendheid word op weinig plekke so goed uitgebeeld soos in Leon se departement.

Leon doseer opleidingsbestuur, 'n vakgebied wat onder ekonomiese wetenskappe ressorteer. Hoewel die vakbenaming formeel en teoreties klink, is dit 'n vak waar studente nie alleen teorie leer nie, maar ook deur praktiese blootstelling die dinamika van bestuur, spanwerk, tydsbestuur en selfkennis ervaar. Vyftig persent van die studente se finale punt bestaan uit die saamstel van 'n gemeenskapsopleidingsprojek waartydens studente in groepe van dertien werk. Die groepsamestelling word deur die dosente bepaal, en terwyl die groepsdinamika uitspeel, werk elke groep aan 'n bepaalde opleidingsprojek in die gemeenskap.

Leon vertel entoesiasies en lig sy vertelling toe met stories: "Daar was die een groep wat 'n ouetehuis geleer het om 'n Pret-aand te beplan. 'n Ander groep het vir 'n minderbevoorregte gemeenskap 'n *total makeover* gegee. Hulle het mense geleer van die basiese onderhoud, netheid en instandhouding van die huise. Daar was selfs *starter packs*, wat verkwasse, koopbewyse vir verf en ander toerusting ingesluit het, en wat deur die

Time out with...

Frank about his ideals for Student Academic Services

By Leatitia Pienaar

“I am born and bred in this career! I have served in all capacities, right from administrative clerk and assistant,” says a passionate Frank Nkoana, Director: Student Academic Services.

“And I am happy to be part of Kowsies and a proud member of the Kowsie family.”



PHOTO: LEATITIA PIENAAR



Leon Bezuidenhoud.

mense gebruik kon word. Verder het die studente nie die projek laat ophou nie. Elke twee maande beoordeel 'n maatskaplike werker nog die huise, word 'n wenner gekies, en speel Kowsies 'n rol in die opheffing van 'n gemeenskap."

Terwyl Leon foto's uit die projekte wys, kom 'n mens agter dat jonk en oud baat vind by hierdie inisiatief. Daar is 'n kinderleeshoekie in die Mangaung-biblioteek wat weer kindervriendelik gemaak word; nie net as diens nie, maar as volwaardige wetenskaplike projek. Studente moet die behoeftebepaling doen, uitvind waarom die huidige leeshoekie nie werk nie, met beide die biblioteek as die gemeenskap in verbinding tree, en uiteindelik 'n voorlegging doen waartydens die opleiding plaasvind en die studente geëvalueer word. "Die studente het ons nog nooit teleurgestel nie. Hulle doen soveel meer as wat van hulle verwag word."

Leon self is 'n oud-Kowsie. Hy het op Grey skoolgegaan, by ons universiteit kom studeer en ja, ook 'n Menslike Hulpbronne-internskap hier by Kowsies gedoen. Daarna was hy vir drie jaar by die streekkantoor van die polisie betrokke waar hy onder meer keuring en psigometriese toetsing gedoen het. Gedurende 2009 het Leon aansoek gedoen vir die PhD-kursus in Raadgewende Sielkunde, 'n kursus wat deur net drie universiteite ter wêreld aangebied word. Met beskeidenheid in sy stem noem Leon dat hy bevoorreg was om keuring te kry, en ja, hy is nou besig met die finale gedeelte van die PhD. Hoewel Leon se eie studies sowel as sy betrokkenheid by die studente baie tyd in beslag neem, maak hy nog tyd om te ontspan op sy bergfiets en sy seiljag, 'n Hobie 16. Sy gesin bly egter sy hart se punt – sy 18-maande-oue dogtertjie en sy kleuterskooljuffrou-vrou saam met wie hy Vrydagaande pizzas eet en video kyk.

En as 'n mens jouself afvra wat die kern van die werk is wat Leon Bezuidenhoud doen? Ja, daar is akademie, daar is nasienwerk, veral in die tweede semester as hy klas gee vir 2 400 Menslike Hulpbronnestudente. Maar Leon Bezuidenhoud se werklike werksbevrediging lê in die rol wat hy en sy studente speel om 'n verskil in die gemeenskap te maak, terwyl daar ook 'n verskil aan die studente gemaak word. Leon se mededosente, Annestien Lues en Tiana van der Merwe, speel ook 'n reuse rol in die sukses wat hulle bereik; sukses wat veral versinnebeeld word as 'n mens kyk na die joernaalinskrywing van een van die studente. Die studente word verplig om dagboek te hou, ten einde hulle eie vordering te kan sien.

In die dagboek is die getuigenis wat hoop bring vir ons land se toekoms:

'n Inskrywing in 2005 lui: "Whites are not all racists ..."

Dieselfde student merk in 2005 op: "I wish I could work with this group for the rest of my life ..."

Ja, daar is Kowsies wat 'n verskil maak in die gemeenskap, en dan is daar mense soos Leon Bezuidenhoud en sy mededosente wat 'n verskil maak aan Kowsies. Mense wat weet dat ons universiteit wat sy studente dien ook sy gemeenskap dien, en ja, as jy jou gemeenskap dien, dien jy jou studente ...

FOTO: IGNO VAN NIEKERK

Frank says his department provides a support base for the core business of our university in terms of applications, admissions, financial aid and registrations right through to graduations. "It is only through effective and efficient academic support services that our university can achieve excellence in its academic endeavour in tandem with its vision of being an excellent, equitable and innovative university."

His vision is to provide an excellent and user-friendly administrative service, to create a division that is functionally able and has as its goal the achievement and provision of effective academic administrative support to our university so that the institution can achieve its goals.

"Student Academic Services' vision is to cultivate the deepest trust, reliability and respect expected from our university, the division and faculty administration."

Values that are important to him are, amongst others, user-friendly quality service, quality systems for effective and efficient service delivery; easy-flowing academic administrative processes; easy access to relevant information, which includes making it readily available; optimal and effective administrative support to the core business of our university.

Frank sees an effective administrative system that is manned by skilled and well-trained staff as the backbone of the service his department must deliver to students, staff and the broader community.

He is not shying away from the challenges faced by his department. "The main challenges that face me and the unit

are, amongst others, to create a division that is functionally able and has its goal the achievement and provision of effective academic administrative support to our university core business."

One of the challenges he would like to tackle is the decentralisation of admission, registration and qualification of prospective students to the faculties. Quality must be guaranteed through examination committees.

Graduations, the setting and control of timetables and examinations must remain centralised, he believes.

Staffing remains a problem. He has 53 people dealing with 29 538 students who registered to study at our university this year. A succession plan must be in place where senior people are getting ready to retire. People must be empowered to fill positions. Infrastructure also remains a headache.

He would also like to be in line with new development in academic administrative systems to enable our university to achieve academic excellence and global competitiveness. The establishment and/or strengthening of a high level ethos of service delivery, and the development of good human relations between the staff and students in order to improve the image of our university are also on his list.

"I would like to see a total change in academic administration. Functions like admission, registration, examination and graduation must run smoothly," he says.

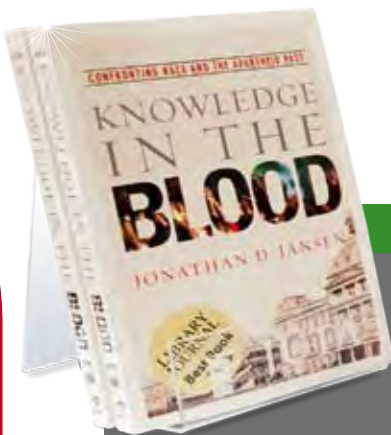
Frank Madimetja Nkoana started with our university in February 2009, bringing with him 24 years' experience in academic administration, 14 of which have been in leadership and senior management positions at the former University of the North (Turfloop) and former Medical University of Southern Africa (Medunsa).

He served in various university councils, senate and management committees and the Senate and the Council of the Mpumalanga, Limpopo and Ga-Rankuwa Colleges of Nursing. He also attended various conferences, workshops, training and short courses relevant to his field.

Frank is a devoted father, and the photographs of his wife, Dora Kgetoane, and three children are testimony to that. His son Thabo studies towards a B.Sc. Hons. IT Engineering at the University of Pretoria; Boitumelo (18) is a second-year student in B.I.S. Multi-Media, also at Tukkies; and the "laatlammetjie" Papito (6) is at Acacia Primary School, Pretoria.

With his move to the Free State Frank is becoming far more knowledgeable about rugby and enjoy the invitations to the suites at the rugby. And I am sure he is cheering Shimlas and Cheetahs.

nnu



PROF. JONATHAN

makes us proud

Prof. Jonathan Jansen, our Rector and Vice-Chancellor, received an award from the Library Journal for Best Books of the Year for 2009 for *Knowledge in the Blood*, the book he authored. His book was also selected for the outstanding recognition awards by the American Educational Research Association (AERA), in the category: "Decolonizing the curriculum conversation".

He will also receive an Honorary Doctorate of Higher Education Administration degree from the Cleveland State University in the USA on 15 May 2010. - **Jennifer Komba**

JONATHAN EDWARDS CENTRE AFRICA opens its doors

At the official inauguration of the Jonathan Edwards Center Africa was, from the left, front: Prof. Harry Stout, Chair of the Department of American Religious History at Yale University; Prof. Jonathan Jansen, our Rector and Vice-Chancellor; back: Prof. Dolf Britz, Director of the Jonathan Edwards Center Africa at our university; Prof. Kenneth Minkema, Executive Director of the Jonathan Edwards Center at Yale University; Prof. Adriaan Neele of Yale University, now also Professor Extraordinary in our Faculty of Theology; and Prof. Francois Tolmie, Dean of our Faculty of Theology.

In its quest to be an internationally renowned theological and training faculty, our Faculty of Theology recently officially opened the Jonathan Edwards Centre Africa. This centre is affiliated with the Jonathan Edwards Centre Yale University in New Haven in the United States of America. **By Leonie Bolleurs**

About this affiliation Prof. Jonathan Jansen, our Rector and Vice-Chancellor said: "I am deeply honoured to be associated with Yale University. A university is only as good as the company it keeps. This academic centre will be a place where our students and staff can think critically and forcefully on issues of common humanity."

The Dean of this faculty, Prof. Francois Tolmie is also excited about this development. "This visit underscores the strategic relationship between Yale University and the Faculty of Theology and will assist in us continuing to foster high aspiring scholarship, student and faculty support," he said.

Our Faculty of Theology was also privileged to have leading scholars from Yale University, Prof. Harry Stout, Chair of the Department of American Religious History, and Prof. Kenneth Minkema, Executive Director of the Jonathan Edwards Center at Yale attending and participating in the opening of the centre.

This interest in Edwards globally has in part been fuelled by the work of the Jonathan Edwards Centre at Yale University, of which the sole mission is to support inquiry into the life, writings, and legacy of Jonathan Edwards. He is the subject of intense scholarly interest throughout the world, because of the profound legacy he left on America's religious, political and intellectual landscapes.

A huge achievement in court interpreting programme

By Mangaliso Radebe

The first group of 100 students that successfully completed the two-year Diploma in Legal Interpreting at our university achieved a success rate of 90%.

The programme, offered by our university's Department of Afroasiatic Studies, Sign Language and Language Practice, in collaboration with the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development and Safety and Security Sector Education and Training Authority (SASSETA), is the only one of its kind in South Africa.

"This is our first programme in collaboration with the UFS and I am hopeful it will lay a very solid foundation for other such programmes to follow," said Advocate Simon Jiyane, Deputy Director General: Court Services in the Department of Justice.

The diplomas were conferred by Prof. Ezekiel Moraka, our Vice-Rector: External Relations, on behalf of our Rector and Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Jonathan Jansen.

He urged the students to use their skills as qualified court interpreters in the context of the challenges that face South Africa such as HIV/Aids, racism, transformation, unemployment, poverty, job losses, and many other such challenges.

"This is the reality we are faced with, all of us," he said. "It requires skilful and morally upright people to address it adequately and effectively. You are adding up to the number of skilful people in our country and that means you have a critical role to play."

He also urged the students to use their skills to make contributions to the processes of transformation that are underway at our university.

"For instance, our university as a national asset has to transform to that level of being a true national asset. We need your full participation in this process so that we can together ensure the relevance of this university as a true South African university," he said.

The Department of Justice has permanently employed two of the students who received their diplomas, while one of them, Ms Nombulelo Esta Meki, was awarded a bursary by SASSETA to study for a BA in Legal Interpreting. Nombulelo was the top achiever of the programme with an average of 86%.

Did you know...

The Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences hosts the Centre for Plant Health Management (CePHMa) which contributes to food security through research and expertise in innovative crop production and crop protection strategies. CePHMa is the only centre of its kind in Africa.



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ICELDA boosts the development of literacy tests

By Mangaliso Radebe

Together with the Universities of Pretoria, North-West and Stellenbosch, our university recently signed an agreement to cooperate in the development of academic literacy tests.

The Inter-institutional Centre for Language Development and Assessment (ICELDA) is a cooperative venture between these four universities – the only multilingual universities in South Africa.

ICELDA is dedicated to the development of reliable state-of-the-art academic literacy tests and currently makes 32 000 tests available to partnering universities annually.

Most notably, it has produced three of the most reliable academic literacy tests in the country. These include an Academic Listening Test and the Test of Academic Literacy Levels (TALL) for undergraduate students, with reliability levels that are more than 20% above international benchmarks.

"We are even more excited about our Test of Academic Literacy for Postgraduate Students (TALPS), which is already a crucial instrument in determining the literacy levels of postgraduate students at the Universities of the Free State, Pretoria and North-West," said Prof. Albert Weideman, Head of the Department of English at our university and the first Executive Head of ICELDA.

In addition, ICELDA is currently piloting studies for language tests for financial advisors, nurses, students of disaster management, as well as police studies at Unisa.

ICELDA will also collaborate with the Centre for English Language Communication

(CELC) at the National University of Singapore.

"One of the undertakings I made on my visit to Singapore a year ago was that I would assist in every way I could with the building of joint expertise with CELC in language testing," said Prof. Albert.

"However, our focus will remain firmly on research."

He said their goal was to employ the surpluses generated by selling tests to provide promising students with bursaries to stimulate further study and design of academic literacy and other language tests.

By drawing more researchers into the field, Prof. Albert said, ICELDA could provide the capacity for developing reliable language tests at this level that South Africa has always lacked.

Prof. Driekie Hay, Vice-Rector: Teaching and Learning, Prof. Albert Weideman, Head: Department of English, and Prof. Lucius Botes, Dean: Faculty of the Humanities.

PHOTOS: SUPPLIED.

Kovsies charms Gauteng business fraternity

Our Institutional Advancement Office in Johannesburg presented a stylish black-tie function at the Johannesburg Country Club earlier this year. The function, which was well attended by a variety of businessmen and women in and around Johannesburg, was also attended by some of the senior management of our university and members of our Council.

Prof. Jonathan Jansen, who was the guest speaker at the event, shared his plans for our university with the audience and said that he was excited about what was happening at our university. "The next generation of South African leaders will emerge from the UFS. We want to present the South African business fraternity with the best graduates to choose from. At the UFS we will

teach young people not only to be smart, but to talk smart so that we can make you – their future employers – proud of them and of this great university," he said.

– Lacea Loader

Here are, from the left: Mr Robbie Venter, Chief Executive Officer of Allied Electronics Corp Ltd (Altron); his father, Dr Bill Venter, Chairperson and founder of Altron; Ms Penny Venter, wife of Dr Venter; and Prof. Jonathan, our Rector and Vice-Chancellor.



PHOTO: SUPPLIED



Less than the best is not good enough ...

Die hoëronderryssektor word daagliks gekonfronteer met nuwe uitdagings. Leonie Bolleurs het 'n paar kollegas gevra wat hulle dink die fokus vir 2010 in die hoëronderrys moet wees.

Prof. Johnny Hay from the Department of Psychology of Education

My sense is that Higher Education in South Africa should, in a radical way, make a substantial difference to school education. It seems as if the most critical measure to break the vicious cycle of the dysfunctional school system is to intervene at teacher training level. Early in 2010 the unions have finally sent out a strong and united message about accountability in education – on which universities can now build further. Die regte omgewing is tans dus geskep vir hoëronderrysinstellings om deur middel van gehalte-onderrig opvoeders te lewer wat 'n daadwerklike verskil in die skoolstelsel sal maak. Sonder beter skoolonderrys sal ons geliefde land iewers ploeter tussen 'n derde- en tweedewêreldland – en nooit sy potensiaal ten volle bereik nie.

Dr Renalde Huysamen from the Centre for Higher Education Studies and Development

Appreciating what we are doing right in HE instead of focusing on problems with the aim to 'fix' the sector is vital. While focusing on a strength-based approach, HE could collectively explore challenges like environmental and climate change, education, inclusive development and peaceful organisational and national transformation. Where your attention is, there you are and there you grow. Focus on the positive aspects and those shall increase in power.

Tibi Mohapi, Head of Roosmaryn Residence

Many students are having a difficult time with the transition from high school to tertiary education. You cannot have a student coming to class and taking down notes without discussions with peers about the content of a module. HE must shift its focus to blended learning and a more practical approach to learning. Today's student is also more inclined towards the technological side of learning. I encourage all lecturers to make use of PowerPoint and Blackboard and to give students room to grow by hearing what they have to contribute to their own learning by providing them with a platform.

Elisa Sising from the Unit for Students with Disabilities

The university should focus on helping students who had passed Grade 12 but fell short of qualifying the entry to universities by improving the entrance in the Further Education Training Colleges (FETs) and also by making FET colleges accessible for students with disabilities. Higher Education should also focus on students who need bursaries to complete their studies in the field of medicine, because HIV/Aids left our country with a challenge and demand of highly qualified doctors and health-care service providers. We also should assist needy students to avoid unrest because of financial exclusion.

Prof. Annette Wilkinson van die Sentrum vir Hoëronderrysstudies en -ontwikkeling

Die fokus in hoëronderrys behoort sterk op die verbetering van studenteprestasie en -deurvloeikoerse te val, gepaardgaande met die daarstelling van 'n breë omgewing wat suksesvolle leer ondersteun. Dit sal verhoogde betrokkenheid en toewyding van dosente vra. Die opdoen van wetenskaplike kennis rondom onderrig-leer behoort by elke dosent 'n prioriteit te wees, en so ook die inbring van 'n nuwe gees rondom die stimulerende van kritiese denke in elke klaskamer. Navorsing met onderrig-leer as fokus behoort aangemoedig, erken en beloon te word. Instellings behoort duidelike navorsingsagendas in hierdie verband te formuleer.

Refiloe Seane from Kovsie Counselling and Development

For many South Africans less than the best is good enough. This permeates higher education where students and staff are afraid to dream, to challenge and to exegete whatever idea is presented to them; hence failure to have intellectual gymnastics in order to have a command of theoretical fundamentals. There is a lack of motivation to strive for better and higher standards and a tendency to conform and satisfy the examiner. Students are future leaders of our country and need to be developed holistically to reach their optimal potential. Let's make 2010 a dreams year of setting personal goals that challenge the norm and confront the restrictions put for us. Let us make a difference by thinking out of the box in order to realise those goals.

More than 100

Humanities staff get certificates

Staff members of our Faculty of the Humanities were awarded certificates at a function held in the faculty for taking part in staff development activities in 2009. The Dean of the faculty, Prof. Lucius Botes, handed over certificates to 105 deserving staff members from 21 out of the 23 departments who attended seminars, workshops and other professional development activities last year.

– **Mangaliso Radebe**

Adv. Beatri informs about human trafficking

Adv. Beatri Kruger from our Unit for Children's Rights was recently one of the coordinators of a workshop to raise awareness and build capacity among concerned people to combat human trafficking. She played a supporting role in providing information materials to help prevent situations where human trafficking can occur. The International Organisation for Migration is a key role player in this regard. The intension of the workshop was to conscientise people and to enable them to raise alarm about any suspicious activities. The focus was also on the identification of the "traffickers and victims" and the legislation that already exists to combat human trafficking.

Attendees of the workshop learned that women, children, men, foreigners and people who are stricken by poverty are the most vulnerable to human trafficking. They were also informed that a human trafficker can be a family member, friend, public official, pimp, priest, partner, or foreigners. – **Leonie Bolleurs**

Genetics training will reveal the truth ...

Our Department of Genetics launched the first postgraduate degree offered by a tertiary institution in Forensic Genetics in Africa. The programme aims to provide graduates with the skills and knowledge they would require to work in the field of forensic biology. These graduates will be the first group of professionals that have undergone tertiary training in order to assist in the resolution of crime through forensic science in South Africa. It has also put our university in the forefront of training of this nature. The first group of ten students has started with their studies this year. – **Lacea Loader**

2010: A focus on biodiversity

With his lecture titled "More is better: the essence of biodiversity", Prof. Schalk Louw from our Department of Zoology and Entomology emphasised the fact that numbers are not the key issue in biodiversity, but the function that organisms fulfil in their environment is.

This lecture was the first of a series of six lectures presented by the National Museum in collaboration with our university. The lectures are presented in recognition of the International Year of Biodiversity. According to Prof. Schalk, the purpose of this programme is to establish a realisation that human existence is dependent on biodiversity, because biodiversity offers several ecological services without which we cannot survive. – **Stefanie Naborn**

ERAS altyd bereid om te help

Die Eenheid vir Retoriese en Akademiese Skryfontwikkeling (ERAS) by ons universiteit het onlangs weer hul suksesvolle akademiese skryfwerkseminaar vir nagraadse studente aangebied.

Die kursus is afgestem op M- en D-studente wat verhandelinge en proefskrifte voltooi en is deur prof. Louis Venter aangebied. Gedurende die kursus, wat oor vyf weke gestrek het, het studente waardevolle inligting oor akademiese argumente en ook hoe om plagiaat te vermy, bekom.

Volgens prof. Louis sukkel baie studente met wetenskaplike prosa omdat hulle rommelig dink én skryf. "As studente eers weet hoe om 'n goeie teks inmeekaarsit, verdwyn die vrees vir skryf," sê hy.

Die eenheid hoop om studente toe te rus met akademiese skryfvaardighede. Hierdie skryfvaardighede behels die vaardigheid om presies te wees, om deeglik te beplan, en ook om die onderdele van 'n teks sinvol te rangskik.

ERAS is in Maart 2004 gestig om M- en D- studente met hul skryfwerk te help. Sedertdien het prof. Louis en sy span al baie studente tydens hul nagraadse studies bygestaan.

– **Lize du Plessis**



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Versprei die woord

Ons universiteit en die gebeure hier, sowel as prestasies van ons personeel en studente, is die afgelope tyd in vele van die plaaslike en nasionale media genoem.

- Die eerste groep hofbolke vir inheemse tale in die land het by ons universiteit gegradueer. Hierdie nuus is deur onder meer *Die Burger* en *Volksblad* gedra.
- Die bekendstelling van 'n honneurskursus in forensiese entomologie is deur *Volksblad* gedra, terwyl die afsluiting van die Darwin-reeks deur onder meer *Ons Stad* gedra is.
- Patricia de Lille, leier van die Onafhanklike Demokrate (OD) het 'n lesing aangebied vir ons universiteit se MBA-studente. Talle media het dekking aan hierdie geleentheid verleen – soos onder meer *Volksblad*, *Sake 24*, *Beeld*,

Business Report, *Cape Times*, *Sowetan*, *The Times* en *OFM*.

- Tenders ter waarde van R22,5 miljoen is deur ons Sentrum vir Onderwysontwikkeling van vier provinsies ontvang om wiskunde- en wetenskaponderwysers op te lei. Hierdie goeie nuus het dekking in onder meer *Die Burger*, *Die Burger Oos-Kaap*, *OFM* en *Volksblad* gebruik.
- 'n Boek oor oorredingskommunikasie deur prof. Johan de Wet, Hoof van ons Departement Kommunikasiewetenskappe, is bekendgestel en dekking is hieraan deur onder meer *SAfm* en *RSG* gegee.
- Die Kwela-span ('n aktualiteitsprogram op *kykNET*) het ons Hoofkampus besoek om 'n insettel oor prof. Jonathan Jansen, ons Rektor en Visekanselier en ons universiteit, te maak. Hierdie insettel is op 24 Maart 2010 uitgesaai.

- Lacea Loader



Patricia de Lille. 1
Prof. Jonathan saam met Pieter Koen, 'n aanbieder van Kwêla. 2
Prof. Johan de Wet. 3

If it's music to the ear, PLAY IT ON ...

In the past five years a number of internationally renowned artists were hosted by our Department of Music. A series of master classes and performances have been presented by prominent recipients of prestigious awards and winners of outstanding prizes in the international music arena. This exceptional tradition exposes our university community together with other stakeholders to an amazing learning experience through presentation of a vast musical background as denoted around the globe.

Dikgapane Makhetha's conversation with Ninette Pretorius, Professional Officer in the Department of Music, reveals more with regard to achievements pertaining to this exceptional exercise.

How many international artists were hosted by this department in the past two years?

About 35 international artists were hosted by our Department of Music between 2005 and 2009. The number includes a visit from Christian Leotta, the youngest pianist to appear in Montreal, who was accompanied by our Department of Music's pianist, Albie van Schalkwyk when they performed in the Neuberg Ensemble. Former South African pianist, Anton Nel, who immigrated to the USA and Kotaru Fukuma, the Japanese pianist were also among the list of performers.

A highlight in 2009 for our department was our involvement with the Bow Project, which was conceived by New Music Indaba director Michael Blake in 2002 as part of the National Arts Festival. South African Matombi Matotyana collaborated with a Danish quartet, the Nightingale String Quartet in this project which has been hailed both nationally and internationally as one of the most important South African musical projects ever.

What kind of impact did these international artists have on our Department of Music in terms of empowerment, support and change?

Empowerment has been brought about through exposure to international artistry coupled with performance styles and orientation. They support the artistic and educational relevance of art music in South Africa. There is a perceptible change in attitudes towards musical performances and standards as a result of these frequent visits.

In what way do both our students and academic personnel derive benefit from this well-regarded custom?

They benefit from quality artistry, musical and performance insights, the nature and scope of international performance activities and liaison with overseas artists.

How does the future look like in terms of development and some new projects?

We have a new concert agency that collaborates with the Free State Symphony Orchestra and specific concert projects, including the highlight of specific

composers and music genres. We also envisage the establishment of an institute for historically informed performance practice which will serve as a mechanism to draw both national and international specialists in the field.

Are there other local stakeholders involved in some of the projects?

We do have nationwide collaborations with artists from other music departments at other universities, for example the University of North-West in Potchefstroom. We also work with the trio of Albie van Schalkwyk, François du Toit and Chats Devroop, and more prominent artists from some institutions.

What kind of information would you like to share with the rest of our university community regarding assistance, support and feedback?

Attendance of international concerts could enhance personal growth, not only for music students and staff but for the university community at large.



1. Hansgeorg Hchmeiser, 2. William Brian Hogg, 3. Kotaro Fukuma, 4. Evgenia Grekova, 5. Hans Gál-trío

Teamwork an important



By Lacea Loader

“A formidable university needs a formidable Council to lead,” were the welcoming words from the Chairperson of our Council, Judge Ian van der Merwe at the first Council retreat.

The retreat, held from 26-27 February 2010 at the Black Mountain Leisure and Conference Hotel outside Thaba Nchu, proved to be an extremely necessary event for our 25 Council members as it presented them with the opportunity to get to know one another better and to share their visions for our Council.

“The retreat came into existence because Council members share a dream of a great University of the Free State,” Judge Van der Merwe said.

The programme started with a team-building session during which members were paired into groups of two and given the opportunity of introducing the other person to the entire group. Members were also divided into groups and given a problem to solve in their groups.

This was followed by a presentation by Dr Nico Cloete about the South African higher-education landscape. On Saturday, 27 February 2010 the King Code of Governance was discussed by Dr Rudolph Laubscher from PWC. This was followed by an institutional reaction to the *Ministerial Report on Transformation and Social Cohesion and the Elimination of Discrimination in Public Higher Education Institution*.

The retreat highlighted the responsibilities of the Council – it also highlighted the importance of good governance and of maintaining the trust between the management of our university and our Council.

Prof. Jonathan Jansen, our Rector and Vice-Chancellor, posed a couple of questions to our Council during his closing remarks. “I want us to think about a couple of things such as: How do we make people feel part of the UFS; how do we change the negative perception about the UFS; how do we keep the UFS focused on all the challenges that it faces as an institution; how do we respond and relate to government; how do we convey a sense of hope to the new generation of students?”

Photos in strip: 1. Dr Balekile Mzangwa, Executive Mayor of Maluti-a-Phofung Local Municipality. 2. From left: Dr Frans Kotze; Sabelo Gumede, who attended the retreat as an observer; Ndaba Ntsele and Prof. Mogege Mosimege. 3. Francis Hoexter. 4. Edward Kieswetter, Lourens Geyer, Director: Human Resources, and Busiswa Tshabalala. 5. Billyboy Ramahlele, Director: Community Engagement and Klippies Steenkamp. 6. The retreat kicked off with a group activity. 7. Dr Charles Nwaila, Director-General of the Free State Provincial Government.



outflow of Council retreat



Main photo: Some of our Council members who attended the retreat are, from the left: Prof. Mogege Mosimege, Vice-Rector: Academic of the North-West University (Mafikeng Campus); Willem Louw, Managing Director: Sasol Technology; Dr Susan Vosloo, well-known cardiologist; Judge Ian van der Merwe, a judge in the High Court in Bloemfontein and Chairperson of our Council; Edward Kieswetter, Chief Executive Officer: Alexander Forbes Group and Vice-Chairperson of our Council; Ndaba Ntsele, Chief Executive Officer: Pamodzi Investment Holdings (Proprietary) Limited; and Busiswa Tshabalala, Director: Thabo Mofutsanyana education district of the Free State Department of Education.



Chrismi-Rinda Kotze.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

CHRISMI-RINDA's essay nominated for Berlin Roundtables

Chrismi-Rinda Kotze, a staff member and student in the Unit for Language Management at our university, stands a chance of being awarded a research grant, following the selection of her essay for the 12th Berlin Roundtables on "Cultural Pluralism Revisited: Religious and Linguistic Freedoms".

The focus of this theme is religious and linguistic minority rights and the challenges of multicultural societies.

Her essay entitled *The Linguistic Landscape as Mechanism in Multicultural Societies* focuses on the importance of the written language in the public space as a mechanism with which to regulate and develop a multicultural society, as it is a means of access to participation in society.

The Berlin Roundtables on Transnationality are international conferences that consist of workshops and lecture series for 30 to 65 participants selected by an international jury based on essay competitions. They provide a forum for international young academics and journalists to discuss the political and social challenges facing a global civil society.

At the end of each Roundtable, the Irmgard Coninx Foundation will award up to three participants a three-month research grant at the Social Science Research Center Berlin (WZB) and the Humboldt University in Berlin.

They are jointly organised by the Irmgard Coninx Foundation, WZB and the Humboldt University Berlin. – **Mangaliso Radebe**

'UFS Faculty of Theology could be the best in South Africa'

By Leonie Bolleers

"The challenges faced by the UFS Faculty of Theology are immense, but if this faculty can manage to handle them, the fruits will be most rewarding," said Prof. HOFFMEYER, Extraordinary Professor of Church History in our Faculty of Theology when he recently delivered his inaugural lecture at our university.

The title of his lecture was: Transformation in theological education: Jonathan Edwards and his relevance for South Africa. His lecture followed the official opening of the Jonathan Edwards Centre Africa at our university.

In his lecture he focused amongst others on the views held by Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758) and their possible significance for us today. Talking closer to home he discussed some of the challenges lying ahead for our Faculty of Theology, that of serious visionary and dynamic leadership, integrity, dignity, honesty and transparency.

"I sincerely believe that the road ahead lies in a theological faculty which is focused on very high academic standards but at the same time not being ashamed to build and retain the necessary links with the body of Christ and its basic values as related to Scriptures, Confessions and the essence of the Gospel," he said.

"The faculty also needs to be a true breeding ground for the challenges of rebuilding moral values and of reconciliation within both the global and very definitely within the South African context. This university can, besides the challenges of excellence and transformation, also become a major address in South Africa for studying the issues of moral values, reconciliation, forgiveness and social justice. I believe this faculty can and should play a major and leading role," he said.

"Tremendous challenges lie ahead for our university in the further "transformation" of theological education, to enable it to become one of the most prominent standard- and pace-setting institutions for theological education not only in South Africa, but also in sub-Saharan Africa. May we not be disappointed by the outcome of these dreams: the future lies open for us at this university," he concluded.

Prof. HOFFMEYER.



FOTO: STEPHEN COLLETT

An outstanding honorary doctorate for Prof. Dingie



Prof. Dingie Janse van Rensburg.

Prof. Dingie Janse van Rensburg, director of the Centre for Health Systems Research and Development (CHSR&D) at our university, became one of only three South Africans to receive an honorary doctorate from the University of Antwerp in Belgium.

With this honorary doctorate Prof. Dingie joined the ranks of Constitutional Court Judge Albie Sachs, who received the award in 2000 and former State President Nelson Mandela, who received the award in 2004.

The University of Antwerp bestowed this award on Prof. Dingie in recognition of his expertise in the field of sociology and social policy in health care. The rector of this university, Prof. Alain Verschoren motivated the award on basis of his

outstanding scientific work during his entire career. Prof. Dingie is the fourth social scientist ever to be awarded with the honorary doctorate.

Prof Dingie established the CHSR&D in 1993. He will retire at the end of May this year after a career of more than four decades at our university.

– **Lize du Plessis**

Kovsies trek die **bestes**

"Soort soek soort – daarom wil ons leerders hier by die Hoërskool Witteberg by Kovsies kom studeer." So het die hoofmeisie van die Hoërskool Witteberg in Bethlehem gesê tydens 'n matriekaand op die dorp wat deur 121 graad 12-leerders en hul ouers bygewoon is. Ons Rektor en Visekanselier, prof. Jonathan Jansen, was die gasspreker tydens die geleentheid.

"Die leerders van die Hoërskool Witteberg is 'n wonderlike voorbeeld van die kwaliteit studente wat ons volgende jaar as eerstejaars hier by Kovsies kan verwag," het prof. Jonathan aan die volgepakte saal gesê. "By Kovsies wil ons 'n verskil maak in ons studente se lewens en ons wil verseker dat ons studente 'n verskil kan maak in 'n verdeelde wêreld. Dis hoekom ons wil hê dat elke graad 12-leerder hier teenwoordig volgende jaar by ons universiteit moet kom studeer," het hy aan die leerders en hul ouers gesê.

Prof. Jonathan het tydens die geleentheid aangekondig dat beurse om in 2011 aan ons universiteit te studeer aan die twee top graad 12-leerders van die skool toegeken sal word. Hy is na afloop van die geleentheid deur die skoolhoof, mnr. Okkie Botha, bedank vir hierdie wonderlike gebaar van vertroue in die skool en sy leerders. – **Lacea Loader**

Prof. Jonathan en 'n groep Graad 12-leerders van die Hoërskool Witteberg in Bethlehem.

FOTO: LYNDIA GREYLING



Did you know...

The Disaster Risk Management and Education Centre for Africa (DiMTEC) in the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences offers the only postgraduate qualification in Disaster Management in South Africa.

Our university is the only university in the country that offers a national diploma in court interpreting.

Dr Choice

nominated for HELM/ACE Fellows Exchange Programme

By Mangaliso Radebe

Dr Choice Makhetha, Special Assistant to the Vice-Chancellor at our university, has been nominated as a candidate for the 2010 Higher Education Leadership and Management (HELM) and the American Council on Education (ACE) Fellows Exchange Programme in the United States of America (USA).

Dr Choice is one of only three people from South Africa, and the only one from the Free State, who has been selected to participate in this programme. The others are Prof. Mohammad Karaan and Prof. Vernon van der Linde, both from the Western Cape.

Dr Choice was nominated by our Rector and Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Jonathan Jansen who, together with the Rector of the university that will host her in the USA, will be her mentors for the programme.

But how did she feel when she learned of her selection for this programme?

"I think I am not very good at getting excited," she said. "It is only when I get there (USA) and start meeting other people that I will get excited."

The HELM/ACE Fellows Exchange Programme is based on an individualised learning plan that varies for each Fellow. Each Fellow is expected to design a personal learning plan for the duration of the programme, based on general objectives and focusing on key management issues identified for input into the programme.

The plan will include the hosting experience, interviews, readings, work on key management issues with HELM, and other activities designed to facilitate significant learning for both the Fellow and HELM.

"For me this programme is important and I wish they could have more people on it," said Dr Choice. "We have to start grooming people for senior positions in higher education."

"I think people tend to focus on academic life and forget about the leadership part of it. We lack leadership in higher education institutions in this country. This culture of not developing the next generation of leaders kills us as a country. I think that is where this programme comes in."

Fellows are also expected to describe in detail the specific areas they will focus on during the programme. These should relate to a current or forthcoming institutional project or activity for which a Fellow is responsible.

"Managing the finances of higher education institutions is one of the things I want to focus on," she said.

"I am covered in the area of diversity and transformation because while I was in the USA recently that is what I focused on. I still have to sit down, though, and structure what I really want to learn from this programme."

The programme will take place over a six-week period starting in August 2010. Upon return to their respective countries, Fellows will be required to submit a report to HELM. They will also be required to share their experiences with peers at future HELM events.

"The commitment is that, whatever you learn you come back and share by doing presentations in your country. You also have to start mentoring others," she said.



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Dr Choice Makhetha.



listen TO THE SONG inside



Angelo Mockie and Godfrey Manenye
with the cast of Harambe.

Two men – one black and one white – share a room in a residence at the University of the Free State (UFS). They are separated by racial aggression, culture, status, position and religion. For a while the divide between them is too deep and wide to conquer.

They join hands and dance the “langarm” (long-arm two-step). Then their friends – from diverse races – join in and dance along.

So, is that how things are now at the UFS? The same UFS that not so long ago had the Reitz saga? The bones of contention? The seething racial boiling pot? Well, yes. And no. And perhaps.

Yes, because visionaries Angelo Mockie and Godfrey Manenye and an enormously talented cast have shown what is possible in the recent Harambe (Swahili for “togetherness”), presented by the Department of Drama and Theatre Arts at the UFS.

Harambe ran at the Scaena Theatre and included students from different faculties within the UFS coming together in dance. “We live in a world that is constantly divided by every trick and scheme of the enemy. We can only overcome this distraction by listening to the song within us and the movement of our soul dancing like a breath of fresh air,” says Mockie, who portrays the part of a first-year student sharing a room with a student from a different race.

Altogether 15 talented dancers and actors made Harambe sizzle. It’s not theatrical perfection, but the enormous message it conveys overshadows any shortcomings.

No, because while the audience attending Harambe was diverse and appreciative, each race was still sticking to its own when it came to seating arrangements. No, because racial tension is still a brutal – albeit now more subtle – reality at the UFS, say some of the students interviewed before the production.

Perhaps, because most of the students interviewed say that racial tension is no longer a concern on the campus. “I’ve been here two weeks and even though there are still divisions, there is no problem,” says Lola, a first-year drama student.

“In our experience there is no racial tension here,” say Jan, Wiun and Jeanette, third-year medical students.

“I have not seen a problem. Most of the white people go to the Afrikaans classes. When I walked into my class I thought, ‘Ooh, no white people,’ and then I remembered they were in the Afrikaans class,” says Daphne, a first-year Economics student.

“It’s a new year. Everyone is trying to forget and focus on moving forward. That’s what our rector has been talking about,” says Manenye.

By Andy Galloway as appeared in the Express.

nnu

SHIMLAS makes **history** on the field

By Ruan Bruwer

The Shimlas rugby team might have had a disappointing end to the Varsity Cup, but overall they’ll be pretty satisfied. They qualified for the semi-finals by ending third on the log – a big improvement from last year’s sixth place.

What made their exit (a loss against Ikeys in the semis) out of the competition disappointing, was the lack of urgency as well as the absence of the fighting spirit and determination they had shown the week before to beat the University of Johannesburg (UJ).

Shimlas had to win that last match of the group stage in order to qualify for the knockout phase. This they did 51-32 in a fixture that was characterised by Shimlas fighting back every time UJ took the lead.

In the opening round of the season Shimlas and Ikeys played to a 30-all draw. Despite leading 25-13 midway through the second half, Shimlas allowed Ikeys to level matters with a final-minute penalty kick.

Two weeks later Shimlas had the golden opportunity to achieve a rare win over Pukke, a team that has become a bogey team for the Free State students.

Shimlas were the better team on the night, but lost 16-17 due to an indifferent kicking display by fullback George Whitehead who missed four kicks at goal, two of them in the final quarter, that would have won the match. One now has to go back to 1997 to find a Shimlas win in Potchefstroom. It was also Pukke’s fifth win in a row over Kovsies.

In between there was a victory against NMMU and a loss to Maties before Shimlas finished the group stages with three straight wins, including a triumph over Tukkie in Pretoria for the first time since 2005.

Shimlas’ head coach, Jaco Swanepoel, still was satisfied with making the top four for the first time.

“From the start our goal was to reach the semi-finals and it was even more satisfactory because we had to fight that much harder to get there, due to the two matches we were unable to close out, he said.”

There were a few regular performers for the students in blue, but no-one was better than Boom Prinsloo. This star No.8 ended up as joint top try-scorer with seven touchdowns, including four against NMMU. However, it was his high work rate on attack as well as strong defence across the park that earned him three man-of-the-match awards. By the time of going to print, he had received the second-most votes from the public for the player that rocks (player of the tournament).

There was also much more support for Shimlas in 2010. According to Dougie Heymans, Varsity Cup Project Manager at KovsieSport, the students and university as a whole started to buy into the competition, which led to bigger crowds at Shimla Park. “We had great support from various stakeholders and the vibe around the competition was far greater than the first two years,” he said.

In the hostel competition of the Varsity Cup, Vishuis destroyed all opposition on their way to raise the trophy. They got the better of Dagbreek (Maties) in the final, winning 22-7 which earned them the bragging rights for the next year as the best rugby hostel in South Africa. Their campaign included a 108-3 drubbing of the Madibaz (NMMU) and a comprehensive 57-3 win in the semi-final against Villagers of Pukke. Armentum won this competition last year which emphasises the strength of hostel rugby at the University of the Free State.

Boom Prinsloo.

**Vishuis in action
against the University of
Stellenbosch’s Dagbreek.**





Paton Dennison (right) and Prof. Johan Henning, Dean of our Faculty of Law.

Just as our university is striving towards distinctiveness in higher education, so is Paton Dennison, an LL.M. student in our Faculty of Law, striving towards being the best in his work and his studies.

Being one of only two law students countrywide presented a Mandela Rhodes Foundation Scholarship is enough proof of Paton distinguishing himself from his peers.

In 2009, after he had started working as an academic assistant in the Department of Private Law in 2008, this top student was approached by his Head of Department, Brand Claassen, who introduced him to a scholarship presented by the Mandela Rhodes Foundation. Together they did some research on the programme and during the third term of his fourth year, Paton applied for the scholarship.

Three representatives from our university were considered for the scholarship and late last year Paton was informed that he was chosen as one of two law students countrywide who would be awarded this prestigious scholarship. The goal of the Mandela Rhodes Scholarships Programme is to offer educational opportunities to all African citizens with scholastic, intellectual and leadership potential to study at suitable tertiary institutions in South Africa. This African scholarship, combined with the foundation's leadership skills training for scholars, aims to create a network of principled future leaders, with the capacity and will to advance themselves and their countries. The scholarship programme intends to give expression to the legacy of academic excellence, leadership skill, education, reconciliation and entrepreneurship.

Paton is very excited about the scholarship. "It means a lot to me. This scholarship that is producing young leaders for Africa is definitely not only another scholarship or bursary, but an opportunity to meet and to get to know some of Africa's best young people. It is also a wonderful opportunity to establish a body with people from different places and with different talents. Together we can do good and together we are stronger than only one of us alone," he said.

But who is this aspiring young leader? Born and bred in the Sabie-Graskop region, Paton completed his high school career at the Panorama High School in Graskop before enrolling for the four-year LL.B. degree at our university. Law was, however, not his first career choice. Paton had dreams of becoming a civil engineer, but because of a lack of facilities at his high school, he didn't have the required Physical Science. So, with his mother's encouragement, he started his studies in Bloemfontein in 2006.

After obtaining his LL.B. degree (cum laude) at the end of 2009, Paton started with his LL.M. in 2010, majoring in contracts and risk management (taxes). He is still working as an academic assistant in the Department of Private Law.

Paton fully believes in the staff of our Faculty of Law and the curriculum they offer. "We are not only learning what the law is saying, but also how it is works and how it is developing. A former Kopsie is a not only an expert of the law, but a person who understands the law and therefore also a person who can develop the law. Our professors also have an in-depth knowledge of the law," said Paton.

He also enjoys the fact that he studies in an environment conducive to enhancing interaction between lecturer and student. "Doors are always open and a student is more than a face or a number," he said.

With a bright future ahead Paton is planning on become a lawyer specialising in taxes. He selected Adams & Adams Attorneys in Pretoria to do his articles at.

When not sitting behind a desk, Paton loves to perform. As a resident of Villa Bravado he had the opportunity to explore his passion for arts and culture during his studies. Paton participated in Kopsie Idols and also played parts in three plays staged by our Department of Drama and Theatre Arts, one of which was showed during the annual Volksblad Arts Festival on campus.

The Faculty of Law is very proud of Paton and wishes him the best of luck for his future. – **Leana Coetzee**

Kovsieatlete maak hul merk

Deur Leonie Bolleurs

Atlete aan ons universiteit het vanjaar letterlik en figuurlik met 'n spoed uit hulle blokke weggespring en hul merk op koshuis- sowel as nasionale vlak gemaak.

By die eerste Yellow Page-atletiekbyeenkoms wat vroeër vanjaar in Port Elizabeth aangebied is, het Thuso Mpuang skoonskip gemaak toe hy die 200 m gewen het. Windy Jonas het ook presteer toe hy die myl gewen het. Ons atlete het ook suksesvol meegeding by die tweede Yellow Page-kampioenskapsbyeenkoms wat in Durban gehou is. Marizette Badenhorst het die hamergooi gewen, Windy het tweede in die 1 500 m en Pieter Marx derde in die 400 m geëindig, terwyl Nadia Botha derde in die hamergooi was.

Op hulle tuisgrond het Kopsies die Vrystaatskampioenskapsreeks oorheers deur feitlik alle senior items te wen.

Beide DB Prinsloo en Sarina Cronjé wat verantwoordelik is vir atletiek by KopsieSport, is positief oor vanjaar se koshuisatletiek. "Die deelname, die gees van die studente, die atmosfeer – alles beïndruk. Ons het ook baie goeie terugvoer van verskeie deelnemers van vanjaar se eerstejaarsbyeenkoms ontvang. Dieselfde geld vir die interkoshuisatletiek," sê Sarina.

Wat voorlê, is die Kopsie-kampioenskapsbyeenkoms. Dit is hier waar Kopsies se kampioenatleet bepaal word.

Ook in die pyplyn vir die seisoen is hoogtepuntbyeenkomste soos die SA Senior en Junior kampioenskapsbyeenkoms en die Universiteite Kampioenskapsbyeenkoms (USSA) later in April. Die SA Senior en Junior kampioenskapsbyeenkoms sal ook bepaal wie ons op internasionale vlak trots gaan maak by onderskeidelik die Statebondspele en die Wêreld Junior kampioenskapsbyeenkoms wat later vanjaar in Indië en Kanada gaan plaasvind.

Buiten dat KopsieSport verseker dat ons studente die hoogste sport in atletiek bereik, het hulle ook 'n werwingsprogram waar hulle atlete van skole soos onder meer Grey, Sentraal, Oranje en Jim Fouché afrig. "Vanjaar word daar daaglik reeds tussen 40 en 80 skoolatlete hier op Pelliespark afgerig," sê DB. 'n Ander groot bemarkingsmeganisme is die Motheo Gariepstreek se skolebyeenkoms waarheen Kopsies jaarliks 'n uitnodiging ontvang. Vanjaar het ons 'n span van 79 studente ingeskryf. Van die uitblinkers by hierdie byeenkoms was onder meer Thuso Mpuang, Kagisho Kumbane en Roné Reyneke.

Volgens DB en Sarina is atletiek 'n positiewe ervaring by Kopsies. Danksy die ingesteldheid van die atletiekgemeenskap sal mense nie kleur of geslag sien as hulle na atletiek op Pelliespark gaan kyk nie. Wat hulle wel sal sien, is Kopsies wat hulle beste gee," sê hulle.



1.



2.

FOTO S: VERSKAF

1. Kagisho Kumbane (ver regs).

2. Roné Reyneke en Anneri Ebersohn.

Kasia Baker
with her
family.



PHOTOS SUPPLIED

KASIA: **Juggling** steak, parenthood ... and her MBA

By Lize du Plessis

Kasia Baker has experienced and seen a lot. She was born and bred in Poland, spent some of her teenage years in Libya, is married to Derek, an agricultural economist from New Zealand, moved to Kenya after her wedding and then to Denmark where her beautiful children, Karen and Iles, were born. In Denmark this archaeology graduate from the Institute of Mediterranean Archaeology at the University of Warsaw in Poland also worked as technical accountant. And yet she decided to do her MBA here at our School of Management.

One can't help but wonder how Kasia manages to juggle parenthood, being a wife to her husband and finishing her MBA. However, it soon becomes clear that this strong lady doesn't take anything lying down. She tells of her rather difficult experience in Libya, where she was seen as a grown woman at the tender age of fourteen years. She wasn't allowed on her own anywhere and struggled to come to terms with women's low position in society.

The obvious question on your mind when you listen to Kasia's remarkable story is, "Why Kavsies?" She has, after all, been to so many countries. She has seen many places. What makes one decide on Bloemfontein, in the centre of South Africa?

"I wanted a good quality MBA," she says. Derek was travelling to Bloemfontein in connection with a project that his institute was working on and he got her some brochures on the MBA at Kavsies. He also spoke to some people here to see what Bloemfontein was like. She got excited about what her husband told her and what she read in the brochures. The rest, as they say, is history.

Kasia started studying at our university in January 2009 and hopes to finish her MBA midyear 2011. She flies to Bloemfontein to attend her classes. "What I like most about Bloemfontein are the people," she says. Kasia soon made friends in Bloemfontein and they are there for her whenever she comes to Kavsies. "I think people in South Africa are much more friendly, open and welcoming than in many other countries."

Kasia also talks highly of her lecturers at Kavsies. "They put effort into their slide presentations and they challenge students to a new way of thinking."

Of course, it can't be all work and no play. And working as hard on your MBA as Kasia does is sure to make your stomach growl. Kasia admits to enjoying a good steak and she enjoys Bloemfontein's steak restaurants. "They recently opened a Spur in Nairobi and I'm very happy about it."

Kasia Baker seems to succeed in everything she takes on. If one looks at everything this remarkable lady has done and is doing, and you'll see she is obviously one heck of a juggler.

ACADEMIA: no rest for the **wicked**

Even though it was pouring outside, it soon became clear that nobody was planning on missing the academic enrichment information session presented by Prof. Jonathan Jansen, Rector and Vice-Chancellor of our university. When he walks into a hall and starts talking, you listen. In fact, by the end of this session, everybody was frightened, motivated and nervous, all at the same time.

The session titled "Finding your way in academia," was presented by the Office of Research Capacity Development under the auspices of the Directorate of Research Development. As always, our Rector made hard work look easy by sharing stories, jokes and secrets with his audience. Staff members from all the faculties at our university attended the seminar for a chance to drink in some of Prof. Jonathan's knowledge.

Dr. Matilda beleef Nigerië

Deur Matilda de Beer

"Hoekom op aarde doen jy dit?" Dit was die algemene vraag aan my toe mense hoor dat ek vrou alleen Nigerië van alle plekke gaan besoek vir navorsing en etlike kilometers na 'n plattelandse universiteitsdorp met toe nog onbekende vervoer moet reis. Soos altyd verduidelik ek dat ek reise op my eie vasteland baie meer opwindend vind as besoeke aan Europa, die Ooste of Amerika.

Die ongeloof oor my nuutste avontuur is natuurlik te danke aan die feit dat Nigeriërs nie juis die mees gesogte nasie in ons land is nie weens hul verbintenis met onder andere dwelm- en mensehandel. Hulle hartlikheid het my egter vroeg-vroeg oorrompel. Met Suid-Afrikaanse Lugdiens (SAL) wat deesdae van alles behalwe uitnemendheid beskuldig kan word, is ek en my medepassasiers werklik beproef met lang toue, net om te hoor vlugte is gekanselleer of vertraag. Dis juis gedurende sulke uitdagende tye wat mense hulle ware kleure wys. Op 'n klein lughawe in Enugu het plaaslike Nigeriërs, na talle oproepe van hul eie fone af, by my gewag



"If you sleep more than three hours a night, you are stealing oxygen. Shame on you!" This was, without a doubt, the most memorable statement made by Prof. Jonathan on this wet day. "You're supposed to be working while everybody else is sleeping." Hearing something like this frightens you enough to forget you're all wet from the rain.

Ambition, dreams and motivation could be felt in the air as Prof. Jonathan mentioned that he is considering changing the criteria for becoming a professor at our university. "It has to be a marvellous, scarce honour to become a professor at Kovsies," he said. This encouraged the staff in the room to work even harder.

Staff members attending the session were told to rethink their futures. "Ask yourselves, 'Where do I want to be in five years' time?'" The academics were told to make a list of everything they wanted to achieve in the coming years. After the list has been made, it's time to figure out what personal changes are to be made to reach those goals.

"You need to surround yourselves with people with the same goals and ambitions as you." Academics should encourage each other to work hard. Every

academic looks to his or promoter for encouragement. If your promoter is neglecting your work, it's time to look for a new one. "Having a promoter who doesn't do his bit to help you is simply not acceptable. Find someone else to help you," Prof. Jonathan said.

Staff members at the session were so keen to ask our Rector questions that a follow-up session is to be held. At the next session, everybody will get a chance to share their five-year plan with the rest of the audience.

Even though every single person in the audience had to walk through the pouring rain to attend the session, it was worth it. Stories are doing the rounds about members of the audience not sleeping that night. Yes, they stayed up all night to work on their futures.

That is what motivation looks and feels like. One thing is for sure: with Prof. Jonathan, we are sure to find our way in academia. – **Lize du Plessis**

tot my vervoer opgedaag het – 'n ou, verrinneweerde motor wat vyf keer sonder water gaan staan het. Terwyl stoom onder die enjinkap uitborrel, is ek vriendelik padkos en water aangebied en gepaai. My onrustigheid oor die stompe wat elke paar kilometer oor die pad gepak is sodat polisiemanne met swaar gewere uit die donkerte kon nader tree, is net oortref deur die motor se aardige gerammel en stomende protes as dit tot stilstand gedwing word. Ek is nuuskierig van alle kante bekyk en my plastiek-omhulde tasse is agterdogtig deursoek. Ons moes telkens 'n geldjie opdok, want die polisie word maar swak besoldig. (Die Nigeriese olievelde verrek net enkeles en akademiërs verkwalik die politici hieroor. 'n Algemene opmerking is: "Bad people succeed because good ones keep quiet." Ek het gedink dis 'n sêding wat ek moet onthou.)

Die tropiese hitte, stowwerige slaggate en die lugbesoedeling van ou voertuie het gesorg vir 'n grys naggordyn wat my laat smag het na 'n bad. Ek was verheug om ure later my bestemming te bereik. Die lugreëling was 'n genade en die ruimte met 'n volle sitkamerstel daarin was 'n aangename verrassing. Die verrassing was egter baie groter toe ek die bad se krane oopdraai en daar

Langs dr. Matilda de Beer staan Therese wat haar ongemagtigde uittog na die mark moontlik gemaak het. Ndubuisi (regs) was baie ontsteld dat die ekskursie sonder haar lyfwag of sy medewete plaasgevind het.

FOTO: VERSKAF

geen water was nie. Ek het gou besef waarvoor die plastiese emmer en klein skepbakkie in die badkamer was: in 'n halwe emmer water moes ek elke dag myself op so 'n manier reinig dat die water weer terug in die emmer beland. Dit moes dien om die toilet te spoel.

Die volgende oggend is ek wakker geklop en tot my verbasing word ek voorgestel aan my persoonlike lyfwag. Daar is aan my verduidelik dat baie van die inwoners nog nooit 'n wit mens in lewende lywe gesien het nie. 'n Dame wat deel van die studenteraad is, Therese, sou al my inkopies doen. Ek mog nie my kamer alleen verlaat nie. My veiligheid was die hoogste prioriteit.

Een oggend vroeg het ek Therese omgepraat om die lyfwag te onseil en my mark toe te neem. Daar het ek gou agtergekom dat toerisme nie 'n prioriteit is nie. Chinese goedere was volop soos oral in Afrika met geen Nigeriese aandenkings te koop nie, anders as in Lagos en Abuja. Die kos is egter eg Nigeries met Yam en vis en hoender volop, en natuurlik rissies. Therese het tussen die vlieë twee groot visse uitgegrawe en laat opkap in bonkige stukke. 'n Handvol rissies, twee tamaties en uie het haar inkopies afgerond. Laat daardie aand was daar 'n klop aan die deur en daar staan Therese trots met twee bakke vol kos – Chilli-vis a la Nigerian Style.

Dit was heerlik.

Dis egter net so heerlik om terug te wees, braaivleis te eet en weer in 'n bad vol water te kan lê, maar nou is dit anders. Ek gaan uit my pad om buitelanders welkom te laat voel in my land en ek het 'n plastiese emmer langs my bad: 'n mens mors nie water nie.

Education's **youngest** Ph.D. graduate gets international recognition

By **Mangaliso Radebe**

"Although achievements like these require a lot of hard work and dedication, I choose to keep in mind that I probably had more opportunities than others, more things to be thankful for than others and I therefore consider my achievement a privilege."

She was only 27 years old when she submitted her thesis, making her the youngest person ever to obtain a Ph.D. in Education at our university. Dr Nalize Marais obtained her Ph.D. at the September graduation ceremony in 2009 and now her research work has catapulted her into the international arena of scholarship.

Her Ph.D. thesis entitled *Accountability and liability: an education law perspective on school leadership* has been nominated for the Best Dissertation Award by the International Politics of Education Association. She will compete with two other finalists for this prestigious award.

"Only one word can describe how I feel about my achievement – gratitude," she said. "My academic pursuits have been fostered by the unrelenting support, faith and guidance from colleagues, friends and family to whom I can only be grateful."

Quoting Kahlil Gibran who once said, "A little knowledge that acts is worth infinitely more than much knowledge that is idle", Dr Nalize believes that this achievement is merely a starting point for a new scholarly endeavour for her.

The winner of this award will be announced during the annual meeting and conference of the American Education Research Association (AERA) in Denver, Colorado, in April this year.

Dr Nalize's research study was driven by the principles of democracy founded in the advancement of human rights, equality and dignity. It dealt with issues of training and development in legislative knowledge and interpretation to empower school principals in their roles as accountable officers in a politically transforming environment.

She is currently an instructional designer in the Division E-learning at the Centre for Higher Education Studies and Development at our university.

Dr Nalize Marais.

PHOTO: DESI MCCARTHY

**Dr. Renalde Huysamen
(links) en Marietjie du Plessis.**

FOTO'S: VERSKAF



Outentieke leiers inspireer hulself

Leierskap word baie hoog geag. In vandag se wêreld is die vermoë om jouself en ander te lei en motiveer van die uiterste belang. Dr. Renalde Huysamen en Marietjie du Plessis van ons Sentrum vir Hoëronderwysstudies en -ontwikkeling (SHOSO) bou vanjaar voort op 'n jaarlange Leierskap-Leer-gemeenskapsprogram wat hulle verlede jaar geloods het.

Die projek beoog onder meer om akademiese en nie-akademiese personeel by die universiteit te help om nie net hulle eie sterkpunte as leiers te ontdek nie, maar ook om daarvoor te droom om sodoende lewendige, volhoubare en florerende gemeenskappe van samewerkende leer en ontwikkeling te bereik. Tydens die eerste ses maande van die program ondersoek personeel hulle persoonlike en professionele ervarings en in die proses groei hulle as individue en outentieke leiers.

Die groep is baie uiteenlopend in terme van ras, geslag, taal en kwalifikasies. Volgens Marietjie skep hierdie diversiteit 'n geleentheid waar deelnemers hulself en ander beter leer verstaan. Hegte bande word gesmee in 'n ondersteunende, veilige en stimulerende omgewing waarin wedersydse leer kan plaasvind.

In die laaste ses maande van die jaar is die fokus op navorsingsuitsette vir akademiese personeel en projekte vir nie-akademiese personeel. Sommige personeel het reeds artikels gepubliseer en internasionale betrekkinge hiermee opgebou. Projekte om dienslewering te verbeter is met groot sukses deur nie-akademiese personeel aangepak.

Die Leierskapsprogram beloop 40 uur en sluit wegbreekessies, groep- en individuele aktiwiteite, onderhoude en gesprekke, buitelugaktiwiteite, storievertellings navorsingsmetodologie in. Die sessies vind op kampus plaas, maar twee wegbreekessies na nabygeleë oorde word ook onderneem. Alhoewel hierdie program in die hoëronderwyssektor geloods is, kan dit aangepas word om aan enige ander sektor se behoeftes te voorsien. – **Ula van Zyl**

Gesondheid en welstand van personeel kry nuwe stukrag

Die gesondheid en welstand van personeel en studente aan ons universiteit het nuwe stukrag gekry met die totstandkoming van die Departement Gesondheid en Welstand onder leiding van dr. Louis Holtzhausen.

Kovsie Gesondheid, waaronder die Sportgeneeskundekliniek, die MIV-sentrum, die Personeelwelstandskantoor en die maatskaplike werker is nou almal onder een sambreel onder Gesondheid en Welstand saamgevoeg.

Dr. Louis sê die moontlikheid bestaan ook dat dit fisies by een lokaal gesentraliseer kan word.

Die samevoeging van eenhede onderstreep die onlosmaaklike verband tussen die gesondheid van mense en hulle liggaamlike en geestelike welstand, asook dat hierdie welstand neerslag vind in goeie gesondheid.

Die nuwe departement kan 'n eenstopdiens aan die personeel en studente van ons universiteit lewer in die ons universiteit se strewe na 'n gesonde en gelukkige personeelkorps en studentegemeenskap.

– **Leatitia Pienaar**

Voor: Dr Annette Prins, Adelingshoof: Personeelwelstand, Arina Otto, Afdelingshoof: Sportgeneeskundekliniek, agter: Riana Johnson: Hoof: Kovsie Gesondheid, Elizabeth Msadu, UV-Maatskaplike werker, Estelle Heideman, Hoof: Kovsie Vigssentrum.



FOTO: LEONIE BOLLEURS

Unsung heroes watch your steps



Dick Conradie and Willem Butler.

“Prepare and Prevent instead of Repair and Repent” is one of seven safety awareness slogans found on the lime-green posters on the campus walls. Dick Conradie and Willem Butler, Occupational Health and Safety consultants on our Main Campus are the persons behind the lime-green madness. These two men are charged with the responsibility “To stop accidents before they stop you”. The awareness posters aim to catch people's attention and to make them aware of the importance of their own and others persons' safety.

The posters, however, are only the by-products of a more important job. “The law obliges employers to ensure that their employees work in a safe environment and that they perform their work safely,” says Dick. This is not a task to take lightly as, according to Dick, 8 of the ±2 600 staff members of our university were injured in the last month. The academic sector is not classified as a “dangerous” profession, which makes these numbers unusually high. Conradie adds that the main causes of injuries on campus are slipping or falling on uneven, slippery surfaces and/or steps.

It is the staff of the Occupational Health and Safety Division that takes care of general safety on campus. They regularly monitor and inspect the campus grounds for any potential dangers to staff members and students. “The building sites are our biggest projects. We have to ensure that there aren't any possible dangers in or around those areas,” says Willem.

However, they cannot be present everywhere to ensure that everyone is safe all the time; hence the arrival of the lime-green posters. Willem says the slogans were selected because they refer to the main causes of injuries on campus. “Make sure you have non-skid shoes and a firm footing” and “Beware of slips and trips” are two examples that aim to prevent the said dangerous act of falling.

Dick says that many people, especially students, do not know that they can report the injuries they sustained due to hazardous areas on campus grounds. The slogan, “Near miss or incident? Don't ignore it – report it”, aims to make this clearer.

Next time you are walking on campus and see a lime-green sign, remember to take your safety as seriously as these unsung heroes do. – **Jolandi Bezuidenhout**

PHOTO: LIZE DU PLESSIS



By
Mangaliso Radebe

New infrastructure for our Qwaqwa Campus

The Qwaqwa Campus of our university will have two new residences and a new building for the Faculty of Education at a cost of about R45 million, in order to ease the growing demand for student accommodation and lecture rooms.

These projects are expected be completed before the end of this year for usage in the 2011 academic year.

According to the Deputy Director of Housing and Residence Affairs at the Qwaqwa campus, Rev. Hosiah Nkoana, the construction of the new residences, which will cost about R30 million, will be carried out in two phases.

"The first phase will be university-funded and the residences will accommodate 200 students, male and female. The second phase will be a private development by a private developer. The residences in this phase of construction will accommodate 500 students – and this will be its first phase. It will then be followed by a second phase, depending on the demand for accommodation," he said.

"These residences will not necessarily be state-of-the-art residences, but they will have good facilities that will underwrite our approach that residences are not just sleeping places."

"We are developing a philosophy of turning our residences into learning and living areas. So, to get there we are going erect a computer lab with 100-150 computers between the residences so that all resident students can access them to enhance the learning side of residence life. I hope this will change the way our students see residences," he said.

The two residences, male and female, will offer single, double and three-bed rooms, as well as provide facilities for disabled students. For instance, kitchens will be incorporated into the circulation routes and bathrooms or laundry areas will be readily accessible. There will also be a separate wing for senior students.

The buildings will be arranged in such a way as to create multiple social spaces which will include:

- private courtyards within the perimeter of the hostel which could be utilised for studying or socialising;
- a communal covered area (for each hostel) for students to assemble and host social events; and
- a public open square between the two hostels for extra-curricular events such as sports, games or the Rag.

The new education building, to be built at a cost of R15 million, will have one 100-seat lecture room, four 50-seat classrooms, six offices, ablution facilities, a Biology and Science laboratory, and an Information Technology laboratory accommodating 60 students.

It will also boast two internal courtyards with a lawn and trees, and a covered area. Both the courtyards and the covered area will be used for informal educational purposes. The new building will be linked to the southern side of the existing education building.

According to Dr Dipane Hlalele, a senior lecturer in our Department of Psychology of Education, the campus currently has only three lecture rooms for education students.

"As the Faculty of Education we are very proud to have a new building, which says a lot about teacher education," he said. "In this region teacher education is very important and it's one of the basic reasons for our existence as a campus."

"This is a significant statement to the entire community in the Eastern Free State that we are heading somewhere as a campus and particularly as the Faculty of Education."

Our infrastructure on the Qwaqwa Campus including graphic images of future developments.



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Kovsies hosts workshop on improving student success

By Lize du Plessis

South African higher education is challenged with the improvement of student success and throughput rates. This is why our Division for Student Development and Success (SDS) recently hosted a national workshop on student engagement, which included focused discussions on translating student engagement results into action. The workshop formed part of a national research study that is being conducted by this Division in collaboration with the Council on Higher

Education (CHE) during 2010.

According to Dr François Strydom, Director of SDS, the highlight of the workshop was the contribution of Dr Jillian Kinzie, who is the Associate Director at the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) Institute in Bloomington in Indiana. Dr Jillian has almost a decade's worth of experience in working with institutions on how to improve their effectiveness through using student engagement data and other assessment results to inform improvement efforts in undergraduate education.

International research shows that a focus on student engagement can help to enhance student learning. Research in this area can be used to promote and support a culture of evidence-based improvements to teaching and learning in higher education and this was discussed during the workshop.

The South African Survey of Student Engagement (SASSE) study was piloted nationally for the first time in 2009 and involved more than 13 000 students. After the success of the pilot, a national project is being conducted again on a larger scale during 2010, which includes universities, comprehensives and universities of technology. The SASSE provides each participating institution with data about their students that can be used to understand the extent to which effective educational practices are being used within the institution.



Dr François Strydom, Dr Judy Backhouse, Director: Monitoring and Evaluation, Council on Higher Education, and Dr Jillian Kinzie shared knowledge at the workshop.

PHOTO: STEPHEN COLLETT

Bultjie

Wake up and smell the **moerkoffie**!

Ai, Bultjie was so rukkig terug op Skellembosch se Woordfees en dit lyk my die woelinge daar om taal en kultuur het omtrent 'n tameletjie geword. Gelukkig is KOVSIES darem daai hekkie al jare gelede oor. Al werk die dosente hulle hier half in 'n spasma in. Ek kyk later die aand na die Woordfees se program en sien dat baie van ons kollegas daar tydens die Woordfees optree. Dis vir my so mooi dat hulle darem 'n paar koppe uit die Vrystaat ingevlieg het om bietjie fleur aan die fees te gee. Julle Kovsies wat daar opgetree het, het mooi gemaak! En nou wil ek nie skinder nie, maar van fees organiseer kan hulle by Volksbladfees kom leer. Sien julle in Julie hier met die Oppie Bôl Volksbladfees!

Nou reken my kollega daar van Skellembosch die hoofopstand gaan eintlik oor middagklasse wat nou aangebied moet word en dit inbreuk maak op middagete en die gebruikelike glasie droë wit wat daarmee gepaardgaan! Die tradisie van die glasie is glo om aan die studente te toon dat, as deel van hulle opvoeding as volle mense, 'n matige glasie oor middagete as saak ernstig op, aangesien ek hier van halfvyf af 'n hele klompie studente gesien het wat behoorlik 'vol' was. Soos Dawid Kramer sou sê: "Hulle sit daar op die stoep, teen die skemerlig so blou

... En vat so sestien sopies ... of wat die maag kan hou!" Mens sou sweer dit was in 'n filosofieklas wat ek daar ingestap het soos die manne kan redeneer. Hulle stry toe daar oor universiteite en een kêrel raak driftig met: "Ek sê nou vir julle! Kovsies het Steve Hofmeyer en ons? Ons het Koos Kombuis!" Nodeloos om te sê, het ek hulle nie reggehelp met waar Hofmeyer geswot het nie. Nie dat ek bang was nie, maar hulle was baie en almal was gelyk vol!

Nou ja, Koos Kombuis is darem 'n man wat na vele omswerwinge ook deesdae sy woorde en uitsprake temper. Dis wat kinders aan jou doen, Koos! Dieselfde Oud-Matie skryf in The South African Opinion (News for global South Africans) op 7 Januarie 2010 so 'n mooi ding oor Kovsies se rektor dat ek dit wil aanhaal sodat ons almal hier op Onse Plekkie ook weer so bietjie met oop oë en neuse om ons die lewe waarneem.

Koos haal die rektor aan wat sou sê: "It is time for us to start using our senses, all of them. It is time to use your senses and smell the country."

Koos se reaksie hierop? "Dink net ... DINK NET ... aan al die reuke van Suid-Afrika! Dink aan die reuk van vis by Hermanus se ou hawe, daar waar die seemmeue skerts en skater. Dink aan die reuk van beesmis op 'n plattelandse plaas. Die reuk van gebraaide grondboontjies op die strate van Marabastad.

(Bestaan dit nog?) Die reuk van gebraaide mielies in foelie om 'n kampvuur. Die reuk van kappertjies op die walle van die Eersterivier in Stellenbosch. (Hier wil ek darem invoeg, 'die reuk van Wistarias in volle blom tydens eksamentyd oor Kovsieland'.) Die skerp reuk van moerkoffie in die oggend."

En dan kom Koos by die punt: "Die reuk van medemenslikheid en buurmanskap. Kan 'n mens so iets ruik? Kan mens dit in jou sintuie voel? Ja, want dis nie 'n akademiese konsep nie. Dis meer as 'n stuk papier met woorde. Daarom is die Grondwet niks werd as daar nie 'n wil onder die mense self is om dinge te laat werk nie, al gaan daardie samewerking aanvanklik gepaard met 'n gesweet en 'n gevloek. Dankie, prof. Jonathan Jansen, dat jy my weer leer ruik het."

Mooi nê! Skouer aan die wiel en neus in die lug! As ons wil, kan hierdie kampus 'n kroonjuweel in die land word! Let's get the right attitude!

May your days be filled with joy and beauty!

Bultjie