

dumela

UNIVERSITY OF THE
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Amptelike nuusblad van die personeel van die UV
Official newsletter of the staff of the UFS

June 2011

First Postgraduate School of its kind opens its doors at the UFS



This semester our university launched its Postgraduate School at a gala function, following a week of associated events on our Bloemfontein Campus, first of which was the inaugural lecture of Prof. Maresi Nerad from the University of Washington, USA, as Extraordinary Professor in the school.

According to Prof. Neil Roos, Director of the school, the aims of the school are to enhance the quality of postgraduate education and research at our university, to improve the experience of being a postgraduate at our university, and to advocate for postgraduate affairs across the administrative units of our university. "The school will be working closely with faculties, and its special intellectual niche will be promoting interdisciplinary scholarship," he said.

The inauguration of the school, with its university-wide scope and its academic and strategic mandate, represents a bold and innovative step, not only for the academic transformation of our university, but for South African higher education

nationally. As it evolves, the shape of the school will be determined by close consultation with our university stakeholders, and also with a view to best practice globally.

It is clear that the Postgraduate School seeks its reference points within our university and beyond. This was evident during the launch week workshops, discussions and seminars. In attendance were academics, students, funders and friends from our university, as well as from other institutions in South Africa, the United Kingdom, the United States and Australia. In addition to Prof. Nerad, these included Prof. Melanie Walker (Nottingham, UK), Joe Luca (Edith Cowan, Australia), Dori Posel (SARChI chair, UKZN), and Dr Phethiwe Matuta (a Chief Director at the Department of Science and Technology).

While the school is currently situated in the Research Office, it will move into new premises later in the year. – Prof. Neil Roos



This year we received a record number of 1000 applications for admission at our Open Day when approximately 6 000 future students and their parents visited our Bloemfontein Campus. Bursaries to the value of R150 000 were given to future students during the day. Our very first Leadership Summit for Grade 12 learners was also a huge success. More than 280 learners from all over South Africa and Namibia have registered to participate in this three-day event on our Bloemfontein Campus.

Van die redakteur



Our Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences recently walked away with second prize at the annual Scifest. A remarkable achievement, if you keep in mind that there were 54 competitors. However, the significance of their achievement lies in the theme of their exhibition. They exhibited a crime scene where they had several pieces of evidence to prove their case.

Today you can use this issue of *Dumela* as your case docket with the articles as your evidence. The case: to prove that this is an university of quality and excellence; an institution distinguishing itself from the rest. Take, for instance, our recently launched Postgraduate School. It is the only postgraduate school of its kind at a residential university in South Africa. Read what the Director of the School, Prof. Neil Roos, has to say about this.

We have also changed the format of our graduation ceremony, adding to yet another milestone event on our campus.

We received literally hundreds of positive messages from graduates and parents. See page 10 and 11 as we share some of the photographs and messages we have received with you.

A good academic standing is also very important, not only to deliver high-quality well-prepared students for the world of work, but also to compete with the best universities in the world. Our university management has thus employed some of the best academic scholars in the country and overseas to make sure our students receive the best education. In this edition, we profile Proff. Hussein Solomon, Dan Plaatjies and Johan Neethling.

We believe in a strong balance between the academic and the human project. In terms of the human project our students such as Nongamsa Koza and the students from our Faculty of Health Sciences and Sife made us proud with the difference they made in the lives of the people in their respective communities.

On the infrastructural development front we are certainly one ahead. We boast of beautiful campuses, but are still working hard to create work and study spaces our students and staff could enjoy. Graphic presentations of the new entrance to our Qwaqwa Campus, the Memorial Park for Women and the High Performance Sports Centre will give you a glimpse of what to expect. We also give you a taste of Pimento, the new restaurant on our Bloemfontein Campus, which would have opened its doors by now.

You have the case docket, now study the evidence and reach your verdict.
See you in court.

Regards

Leonie

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Our new brand received with mixed emotions

Emmie Smit from our Faculty of Education writes:

"Since 2003, I have been involved in the marketing of various programmes, projects and products of the UFS. In addition, my field of research is an authentic institutional identity.

I experienced the frustration and uncertainty caused by the lack of marketing guidelines and support, as well as the fulfilment of successful make-do marketing initiatives.

Over the past year, I have followed and participated, where possible, in our university's branding process.

Surely not all of us agree with the final outcome of the brand design process, but the time for discussion and input has passed and we are now in the implementation phase.

Kovsies now own the positioning statement, "Inspiring excellence. Transforming lives". All of us are now branded employees that will benefit from using the brand asset from the bottom

up, and not as an added extra. Our new branding has issued all of us with an image, an emotion and a message that our various communities will recall in a time when they need to select a university.

I am sure that all the Kovsies will soon grow into appreciating the benefits of being part of a branded institution. The synergy of using one brand language, one brand image and one brand message will contribute strategically and tactically to the acknowledgment that the UFS is an institution of excellence, and that we are closely associated with it.

By consistently projecting our message we will introduce and affirm our identity to position ourselves in our complex markets.

Let's all be proud of our new brand and start implementing it so that the public can see that we are a team working together on a 'branded' future."

This month on Facebook ...

By Lelanie de Wet

Open Day comments:

And THATS how a open day should be!!! Well done to the organisers. Fantastic day. KOVSIES UNITED - **Nida Jooste**

I couldn't agree with you more. I especially enjoyed the vibe. It was worth waking up @ 6am on a public holiday. - **John Shasta**

jah guys, it ws gr8, ... hpe 2 c u nxt yr as a 1st yr - **Tshepo Phady**

The open day was so wow and the residence i liked was Kestell it look very nice comparing to others i think im gonna stay there next year. - **Rethabile Thabile Hardtoget**

I LOVED IT!! ^_^ Cant wait for 2012. Holding th. - **Michaela Jade Wilson**

Graduation comments:

cant wait for Monday ... getting that degree ... - **Dineo Buttercup Mokgosi**

oh happy day ... finally ... three years in the making ... - **Dineo Buttercup Mokgosi**

today was a great day ... thanks to all the Kovsie staff that were involved ... you guys did a great job ... - **Dineo Buttercup Mokgosi**

Let me be the first to say, it was WOW. Sweet and to a point, makes me want to have a go at it again. - **Phelekwa Mpono Pheksh**

Thanx, guys, it ws gr8, yo turn is cuming. il alwys be a KOVSIE. hard work rily duz pay. all da bst guys. - **Mfumfu Zwane**

Soli DEO gloria!! Aan God al die eer. Sonder Hom is ons tot niks in staat nie ... - **Lize Grobler**

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Is sustainability the NEW normal?

By Martie Bitzer

Did you know that 11 recycled plastic bottles can make one pair of men's trousers?!

Yes! I've heard someone say just the other day that "Sustainability is the new normal". I've heard someone else comment, "No – it isn't, but it should be!"

As higher education across the world has adopted the movement toward sustainability, our university has taken the plunge towards 'going green'!

Simply put, sustainability has to do with reducing our footprint on the future. Every department on campus as well as every student enrolled has some role to play in this huge mission with specialist applications and complex concepts like energy costs and availability, global ecological impact of energy use, availability of new technology, etc.

However, we can start small by keeping the campus and our bigger environment clean, by reducing and recycling, and by planting trees, even though we know that we will not be sitting in its shade in our lifetime! Look out for the Green Campaign that will soon be adding a green flavour to a campus in the midst of winter, and remember: "An educational institution goes green with the help of strong leadership, green building design, facilities management and, most importantly, cooperation."



Martie Bitzer.

**MY
VIEW**

Maths and *music* come together

A unique fusion between music and mathematics took place in the Odeion on our Bloemfontein Campus as part of an honours research project in Mathematical Statistics. Johané Nienkemper, B.Sc. Cum Laude Mathematical Statistics researcher, with her exceptional talent in music and mathematics, devised the project.

Eight Kopsie female singers, both students and alumni, from the female a cappella group, *Amaranth Echo*, was judged based on intonation, volume and overall vocal blend. The eight ladies are divided into four voice groups. This means that there are 24 possible positions in which the group can perform. The aim of this honours study is to determine which of the 24 positions is most preferable with regard to the above-mentioned factors.

The research methodology used is referred to as that of paired comparisons. Thus, each position must be compared to the remaining 23 positions; this will result in 276 observations, which is equivalent to 552 performances in the sample space. This method relies on the opinions of a panel of judges.

"It was a marathon of 552 performances of the same segment of a song, *Voices of Angels*," Johané said.

The promoter, Morné Sjolander, and Prof. Robert Schall from our Department of Mathematical Statistics and Actuarial Science were also present for the execution of this research study.

"This experience was memorable, since it was a first for statistics vs. music on our campus," Johané said.
– Leonie Bolleurs

“This experience was memorable, since it was a first for statistics vs. music on our campus.”



Johané Nienkemper.

Ethics officer by day, **historic battle** re-enacting, sword-fighting knight by night ...

“It’s a bit like chess, but with lots more imagination and creativity involved.”

By Earl Coetzee

As unbelievable as this may sound, we actually have someone just like this roaming the halls of our university’s Faculty of Education. Andrew Barclay, who has served as the faculty’s ethics officer for the past few months, is the man who helps to decide whether any research undertaken by students at the faculty that involves human participation is ethically sound.

He previously worked in publications at the university and holds a Master’s degree in History. His main field of interest lies in comparative history, which looks at patterns in history and he uses these to interpret current trends and how they relate to different points in a society.

His love for all things old is probably what steered him in the direction of his out-of-the-ordinary hobbies. Andrew spends his free time

building tabletop scale models of ancient battlefields, and then having miniature re-enactments of these fabled battles.

“It’s a bit like chess, but with lots more imagination and creativity involved,” he says about this hobby, which even has annual national and international competitions. The 2010 Regional Finals were even hosted on our Bloemfontein Campus, at the Urban and Regional Planning Department, and the 2011 Regionals will be held there again from 25 to 26 June.

Andrew says he got involved in war gaming seven years ago after a visit to the United Kingdom, where it is a very popular pastime. He came back to South Africa, started a little club and soon met up with other players, who shared their hobby online.

Being a history buff, simply re-enacting battles in a miniature world obviously was not enough for him, so he decided to take things one step further. He actually dresses up in armour and chainmail and gets into swordfights.

Yes, Andrew also practises full-scale medieval sword-fighting.

“I actually started out fencing, but then became interested in this when I went to South Korea sometime around 2001 and was introduced to it. I came back to South Africa and joined the Society for Creative Anachronism. This is an international society dedicated to researching and recreating the arts and skills of the medieval ages,” he explains.

The society recreates the armour manufacturing, clothing manufacture, cooking, and all other aspects of medieval life and there are currently two groups in South Africa that participate in their activities. Andrew is trying to get people involved in the society’s activities in Bloemfontein, but unfortunately the high cost of having cool toys like suits of armour and swords made or imported somewhat hampers this – although they are working on a solution to this problem.

He does, however, currently have a small group of fellow enthusiasts who share his love of shining armour and swords, and they meet once a week to hone their skills, medieval style. According to Andrew, he has never witnessed an injury, despite real swords being used. This is due to the sport being very safety conscious and also focused on self-



Andrew Barclay.

control, reading your opponent and being aware of your surroundings. “The guys who get too aggressive are usually the ones who don’t do very well.”

And what does his wife, Lize, think of his pastimes? “Well, she loves it too, because that is actually how we met,” he says.

The couple have a two-year-old son, Archie, whom Andrew hopes will share his love for things from days gone by. “I hope he will also get into it, but knowing how ‘Murphy’ works, he will probably end up liking rugby or something.”

Anyone with an interest in joining either the war gaming or re-enactment groups is encouraged to email Andrew at BarclayA@ufs.ac.za.

TIME OUT
with...



Renowned Prof. Hussein : speaks his mind

By Gerda-Marie Viviers

“I think students need to be more passionate about their work and give their all – they need to expect more from themselves and thereby also respect the sacrifices made by their parents to get them here.”

So says one of the newest additions to the staff of our university and internationally renowned scholar, Prof. Hussein Solomon. Prof. Solomon, a senior professor in our Department of Political Science, joined our university in September 2010 after he had decided to pursue his career here at our university.

“There is an excitement and a buzz in the air, an excitement about the academic projects. This is the major change I feel in my move from Tukkies to Kowsies,” he said.”

This scholar, who has been appointed as the Chief Assessor of the Executive National Security Programme at the Defence Force College, says he would like to be remembered for his originality in research and conclusions drawn, as well as an academic who cares not only for the subject matter, but for his students too. He seems to be writing his way to remembrance too as he is currently busy writing two books; the first being on global jihad and the second on India's secret relationship with apartheid South Africa. He already has two more in the bag.

Other goals of Prof. Hussein include: making an impact on his students and nurturing the next generation of political scientists, a subject which seems to be close to his heart as he explains the origin thereof.

“I come from a deeply politicised family, with my father and elder brother constantly being jailed and under house arrest. This propelled me to wanting to know more about the political domain,” he said.

Prof. Hussein Solomon.

Photo: Anjo Aucamp

Intellectual on monitoring joins our ranks

By Liezl Muller

From Cape Town to Bloemfontein; from student to author. These are only some of the changes of scenery in Prof. Daniel Plaatjies' life. However, the one we are probably the happiest about, is him becoming part and parcel of our university.

Prof. Dan, as he is lovingly known, recently joined our university's Business School as Visiting Professor, bringing valuable experience to the Bult. This former Director and Head of the Graduate School of Public and Development Management at Wits was mainly responsible for the leading, directing and managing of strategic academic programmes, teaching, research, governance, service management and monitoring.

As part of his new duties at our Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences, Prof. Dan will be lecturing part-time and supervise our Ph.D. students.

Prof. Dan Plaatjies.

Regarding the fruit of his labour, he dreams of influencing the academic programmes to equip students better for the work force. He added that he would also like to see our university utilising its resources better to assist the provincial government in building a stronger economy.

Since December, Prof. Dan also holds a position in the Office of the Premier, where he is responsible for developing systems for performance monitoring within the government. His passion for serving the country and its people seems to be obvious, especially with a vision of making our province the province of employment choice.

He describes himself as a strong believer in patriotism and says all South Africans are equally responsible for building a better South Africa.

This academic, husband and father of three holds a Ph.D. in Management, Administration and Policy. He is also busy with the finalisation of this book, *Future Inheritance, Building State Capacity in Democratic South Africa*. This is to be launched within the next few months in Johannesburg, Cape Town and Bloemfontein.

Photo: Liezl Muller

Education grant to boost research in early childhood development

Our Faculty of Education may be the youngest of our university's seven faculties, but it has grown in leaps and bounds over the past year and a R4,8 million grant, recently received from the Department of Higher Education and Training and funded by the European Union, will only serve to further this growth.

The faculty, under leadership of its Dean, Prof. Dennis Francis, recently managed to secure this grant towards a project to strengthen and deepen the faculty's Early Childhood and Foundation Phase Teacher Education Programme. Prof. Francis says the faculty is extremely honoured for prudence shown by the National Department of Higher Education and Training in considering the faculty worthy of receiving this grant, as this amount far exceeds that which was given to other universities.

The overall aim of the project is to research elements of Foundation Phase teacher education and teaching in order to inform Foundation Phase curriculum and programme design. The intention is to deepen and strengthen the existing B.Ed. Foundation Phase on the Bloemfontein Campus and introduce the programme on the Qwaqwa Campus.

Seven studies will be conducted, which will include three Ph.D. and four M.Ed. studies.

Prof. Francis says these studies are also important for the empowerment of marginalised groups within academia, since all the participating Ph.D. and M.Ed. candidates are female. They will be conducting research on language, knowledge and practice in Foundation Phase teaching as well as foundation phase teacher image, status and identity.

Prof. Hasina Ebrahim, the project coordinator and M.Ed. and Ph.D. supervisor in the programme, says the grant has created opportunities for raising the status of early childhood and foundation phase teacher education at our university. It enables the development of a new cadre of teacher educators and curriculum that is responsive to the local and global realities. On a practical level, the introduction of the Foundation Phase programme at Qwaqwa will be beneficial to the community, since there is a large demand for foundation phase teachers in the surrounding areas. This will improve teaching and

Staff involved in the Early Childhood and Foundation Phase Teacher Education Programme are, from the left, front: Eunice Sibeko, Prof. Dennis Francis, Julia Romabenyana and Edith Lesupi; back: Glynnis Daries, Dr Erna van Zyl, Dr Mariette Koen, Colwyn Martin and Prof. Hasina Ebrahim.

ultimately education among local foundation phase learners in the five- to nine-year-old cohort.

Three of the students involved in Ph.D. studies through project funding are Glynnis Daries, who is investigating curricula from birth to four years; Colwyn Martin, who is examining literacy as social practice in early childhood centres; and Julia Ramvenyane, who is researching the facilitative role of Grade 1 teachers in the development of reading skills in Sesotho. – Earl Coetzee

Photo: Earl Coetzee



news



Dienswerkers op ons kampus wat vir BOOV ingeskryf het.

Ons ondersteun opleiding vir dienswerkers

Deur Mariska van Ghunt en Mojalefa Makhele

“Volgens die fasiliteerder van *Project Literacy*, geniet die leerders die aktiwiteite wat in die klas aangebied word en maak hulle goeie vordering.” Hierdie stelling is nie op ons studente, of op 'n groep skoolkinders van toepassing nie. Dit is egter 'n groep van 45 van ons kollegas wat besluit het om aktief daaraan deel te neem om hulle toekoms te verbeter deur in te skryf vir die Onderwys en Opleiding vir Volwassenes (BOOV = ABET)-program, wat deur die Onderwys, Opleiding en Ontwikkelingspraktijk – Sektorale Onderwys- en Opleidingsowerheid (ETDP SETA) bestuur word.

Nadat Mariska van Ghunt van ons Afdeling Prestasiebestuur en Personeelontwikkeling, die vaardighedsfasiliteerder van hierdie opleidingsinisiatief, goedkeuring ontvang het vir die befondsing van 45 leerders, was daar geen keer aan ons kollegas om die klaskamers te vul nie.

Talle navrae is ook ontvang van die plaaswerkers op ons proefplaas om die opleiding te ontvang. Met die bekwame hulp van die personeel van die Afdeling

Prestasiebestuur en Personeelontwikkeling, word die klasse op die plaas aangebied.

“Vol klasse, wat aan die begin van hierdie jaar begin het, is bewys dat ons personeel gretig is om te leer, aangesien alle beskikbare plekke in die kursus gevul is,” sê Mariska.

Uit 45 leerders is 13 op Vlak 1 en 2, en 32 leerders op Vlak 3 en 4. Klasse word deur 'n verteenwoordiger van *Project Literacy*, die diensverskaffer van hierdie program, op Dinsdae en Woensdae tussen 12:00 en 14:00 aangebied.

Dr. Renalde Huysamen, Hoof van ons Afdeling Prestasiebestuur en Personeelontwikkeling, sê: “BOOV streef daarna om leerders met basiese leermetodes, -kennis en -vaardighede toe te rus, met die kersie op die koek vir suksesvolle leerders: 'n nasionaal-erkende kwalifikasie. Die program bied ook aan ongeskoolde werkers 'n geleentheid om hulle opleiding te voltooi. Die vier vlakke van opleiding is gelykstaande aan graad R tot en met graad 9.

“Ons universiteit het sy eerste BOOV-program in 1996 aangebied en verskeie dienswerkers het reeds die opleiding ondergaan. Tans kan verskeie van ons kollegas getuig van die waarde wat BOOV tot hulle lewens toegevoeg het. Ons wens al ons BOOV-leerders sukses toe met hulle studie,” sluit Mojalefa Makhele van ons Sentrum vir Hoëronderwysstudie en Ontwikkeling af.


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SIFE celebrates ten years of making a difference

By Igno van Niekerk

“It all happened so fast,” smiles Tessa Ndlovu, as she talks about the fact that she has not even had time to plan anything to celebrate SIFE’s tenth birthday on the campus. And, as Tessa continues, one realises why things seem to happen fast. SIFE is an organisation that makes a difference, that changes lives – and yes, time surely flies when you are living a dream.

SIFE was founded in the USA in 1975 and soon became one of the world’s fastest-growing non-profit organisations. In 2001, one of our students, Johan van der Westhuizen, brought SIFE to South Africa, where there are currently 26 teams spread across the country. The numbers in South Africa also reflect what has happened across the world where SIFE now has a presence in 42 countries on 1 600 campuses.

SIFE’s main aim, according to Tessa, is to create economic opportunities for communities. Once an opportunity has been identified, SIFE gets business on board and the wheels are set in motion. As faculty advisor, Tessa has to approve the projects after reviewing the proposals by students.

It is when talking about the projects that Tessa’s enthusiasm seems to have no boundaries: “This year we’re doing four high-impact projects. In one instance, we’re assisting kids between Grade 10 and Grade 12 to build their own businesses. We assist them with the start-up costs and we co-opt businesses to help with the training of

entrepreneurial skills. Then we plan a market day where these businesses are evaluated, and some even get registered on the spot.” Tessa’s enthusiasm now becomes irrefutable: “We’re also assisting farmers in Lesotho by providing skilled agricultural economists to assist them in bringing better products to the markets.”

SIFE’s pride is not only in what they are currently planning. It is also about what they have achieved. Tessa talks about a project where unemployed people presented their business ideas, how SIFE found sponsors, and after a day of presentations, these previously unemployed people walked away with money to start their business, as well as training opportunities and mentorship.

During 2007, our university’s SIFE team reached almost 2 000 people in the community, providing them with unforeseen economic opportunities and, in one of the proudest moments in its ten years of existence, the Kovsie team was the 2007 National Champions for running projects which had the capacity to transform communities facing acute challenges.

As Tessa ponders how to celebrate ten years of success, the rest of our university would like to congratulate SIFE not on turning ten, but rather on ten years of passionately making a difference by getting involved in creating opportunities in our community. We wish SIFE many happy returns, knowing well that our SIFE team is building the foundation for the future, not only for the community, but also for the country!

SIFE making a difference in one of the communities in the Free State.



Hoëprestasiesentrum en kommersiële gimnasium binnekort ontwikkel

Hier kom ’n ding – of eerder ’n nuwe plek. Nie net enige gerek, strek en boks sal aan die orde van die dag wees nie, maar wel dié wat deur akademici gemeet, gepas en nagevors kan word.

Volgens Mickey Gordon, projekteerder van hierdie ontwikkeling, wat baie opgewonde is oor sy breinkind, sal ons universiteit met die ontwikkeling van ’n hoëprestasiesentrum aan ’n behoefte voldoen wat al ’n geruime tyd bestaan; om vir wêreldklas internasionale atlete ’n plek te gee om vir hul wêreldkampioenskappe voor te berei. “Veral atlete in vier van die Olimpiese sportsoorte, naamlik hokkie, boks, atletiek en swem, sal hul voorbereidingswerk hier by ons universiteit kan kom doen, aangesien die sentrum daarop sal fokus om sy kundigheid op hierdie vier gebiede te ontwikkel.

“Om sportlui van hierdie kaliber op die kampus te akkommodeer sal ook baie vir ons universiteit beteken,” sê Mickey.

Dié sentrum sal hand aan hand loop met ’n kommersiële gimnasium-gedeelte, waar personeel, studente en lede van die publiek saam kan kom sweat, of dit nou op topgehalte oefenmasjiene is, met gewigte, op spin-fetse, of saam in ’n aërobiese klas.

Volgens Mickey is dit die eerste sentrum van sy soort in Afrika, naamlik ’n hoëprestasiesentrum en kommersiële gimnasium onder een dak.

Nadat die gimnasium onder in die Callie Human-sentrum ’n paar jaar gelede sy deure toegemaak het, was die belofte aan studente dat ’n alternatief daargestel sal word. Die lang beloofde gimnasium, wat na verwagting in Mei 2012 sy deure

gaan oopmaak, is die enigste van sy soort aan die oostekant van Bloemfontein. Die sentrum wat op die westelike deel van ons Bloemfontein-kampus opgerig sal word, sal regoor die Furstenburg-hek en langs die nuwe studentebewoening ontwikkel word. Studente sal die geleentheid kry om op hul spreekwoordelike voorstoep te oefen en die publiek sal vanaf die Furstenburg-hek toegang tot die gimnasium verkry.

Die totale oppervlak van die sentrum sal 2 114 m² beslaan. Die sentrum sluit onder andere ’n ingangsportaal en administratiewe kantore, ’n gesondheidstoonbank, universiteitsportinstituut, sportverkope, ’n spin- en aërobiese sentrum en aantrekkamers in.

Bouwerk en ontwikkeling aan die sentrum sal binnekort ’n aanvang neem. – Leonie Bolleurs

Grafiese voorstelling van die hoëprestasiesentrum en kommersiële gimnasium op ons Weskampus.



Joel Thebe



Haumie Joubert



Shelton Muleya



Yasin Issa



Landi van Zyl



Pieter Booysen



New graduation ceremony format inspires

Staff and students have their say ...

Drums, trumpets, photographers; relatives and friends from afar. A British royal wedding? No, a reflection on our recent Autumn Graduation Ceremony. This year, management decided to do it differently; to offer our graduates a graduation ceremony that they will never forget. Ula van Zyl spoke to some staff members and students to hear their opinion about this.

Joel Thebe, Senior Officer for Under- and Postgraduate students in Education and Law: I liked the look of the ceremony. On the whole, the setup was very good, but I think the organisation can improve. Some students were confused about where they should be when. If something is implemented for the first time, it must be communicated well. The communication can definitely improve.

Haumie Joubert, Assistant-Director of Student Academic Services: I enjoyed the change, but admit it was hard work. It was definitely a change. It was also quite labour-intensive, but overall it was visually very appealing. I feel the results warrant the extra effort.

Shelton Muleya, a first-year Actuarial Sciences student: I found the procession inspiring. The procession was wonderful and also very motivating for undergraduate students. It made me want to work harder in order to be there as well one day.

Yasin Issa, another student on our Bloemfontein Campus: I was intrigued by the ceremony. Seeing the procession definitely sparked interest in the ceremony and the entire process.

Landi van Zyl, who received her degree in Drama and Theatre Arts, currently enrolled for a Postgraduate Certificate in Education: I felt really proud to be part of the procession. It was exciting and new. I'm glad I could be part of this new tradition and I think it will continue for years to come.

Pieter Booysen, Assistant-Officer from the Office of the Dean of Humanities: I have mixed feelings about the new graduation format. I think it looks great, but I thought the previous format also worked well. Isn't it unnecessary to change something when it is working? On the other hand, I guess changing and adapting is necessary for survival.



Theology and disability: what is the question?

Prof. Hans Reinders, Professor of Ethics at the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam, held a public lecture on the theme: Theology and disability.

"Looking at the literature on the relation between theology and disability, you will find the argument in various religious traditions emphatically denying that in the eyes of God persons with disabilities are human beings of a lesser kind. However, there exists a kind of popular religion in these traditions suggesting that there must be something wrong with disabled persons. If not, why would they be disabled?"

"This state of affairs raises many theological questions. Instead of experiencing these things as God's punishment, rather trust that God's will is that of a loving Father, even though it is not always understandable. Where parents of a disabled child begin to see their child as God's gift to them, their trust in God is regained. It opens them for the possibility of learning again that after all, life is good as it is," Prof. Reinders said.

The event was a joint venture between the Faculty of Theology and the Unit for Students with Disabilities. – **Dr Lyzette Hoffman**

Multikulturele drama speel af op Bloemfontein-kampus

Ons Departement Drama en Teaterkuns se drama, *Ipi Zombi*? wat op ons Bloemfontein-kampus aangebied is, was opsigself 'n multikulturele fees. Die drama het teen 'n agtergrond van toorkuns in 'n Xhosa-gemeenskap afgespeel, met die besoekende Amerikaanse prof. Charles Dumas wat die regie waargeneem het. In die rolverdeling was nege mense uit verskillende kulturele agtergronde. – **Anri Bredenkamp**

Adieu Prof. Cronjé

Our Faculty of Health Sciences bid farewell to Prof. Hennie Cronjé at his Valedictory. Prof. Cronjé served as staff member from our Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology for 26 years. He was the head of this department for 21 years.

Prof. Cronjé's valedictory speech, entitled *Adieu*, was a short summary of his academic career, which featured several highlights. He will especially be remembered for his contribution to research in the field of gynaecology, and during the last couple of years, particularly in the field of bladder problems in women.

Prof. Cronjé will be missed by his colleagues as well as the Kowsie community. – **Earl Coetzee**

Goeie nuus vir randfigure van die samelewing

Armoede en MIV/Vigs bly 'n uitdaging in Suid-Afrika. Ten einde belangrike aspekte van hierdie uitdaging aan te spreek, het prof. Pieter Verster van ons Departement Sendingwetenskap 'n konferensie gereël met die tema: *Goeie nuus vir armes en siekes: die uitdagings van armoede en/of MIV/Vigs*. Daar is ondermeer gefokus op Afrika-Christene se reaksie op MIV/Vigs, die uitstraal van God se liefde te midde van lyding en die uitdagings van gemeenskapsbetrokkenheid. – **Dr. Lyzette Hoffman**

UV bied eerste Afrikakonferensie oor studentesake op Afrika-bodem aan

Die Afrikakonferensie oor Studentesake (ASAC) is vanjaar vir die heel eerste keer op Afrikabodem, hier by ons universiteit en in samewerking met die Universiteit van die Wes-Kaap (UWK) aangebied. Die konferensie is bygewoon deur afgevaardigdes van universiteite dwarsoor die kontinent, en die doel was om te fokus op probleme wat betrekking het op studentesake in 'n Afrikakonteks.

Afgevaardigdes het strategieë, idees en hulpmiddels gedeel en uitgeruil, en probleme bespreek wat verband hou met die werk van professionele mense in studentesake. Die konferensie het gehoop om die uitruil van beste praktyke aan te moedig en afgevaardigdes te help om suksesvolle programme te identifiseer.

Van die onderwerpe wat tydens die konferensie bespreek is, sluit in: Konstruksie van post-konflik-demokrasie op kampus: 'n gevallestudie oor transformasie van studentebestuur en politieke betrokkenheid as post-konflik-ingryping", deur Rudi Buys, ons Dekaan: Studentesake, en 'n bespreking oor maniere waarop sosiale en aanlynmedia gebruik kan word om die uitdagings van studente-interaksie, -ontwikkeling en -steun te vergemaklik, deur Birgit Schreiber, Direkteur van die Sentrum vir Studentesteundienste aan die UWK. – **Earl Coetzee**



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Spread the WORD...

With the first African Student Affairs Conference as well as the first Postgraduate School at a residential university, our university reached milestones in the media the past few months.

- This year our graduation ceremony had a new format, as well as a record number of degrees being awarded. Our graduation ceremony was mentioned on OFM and in *Volksblad*, *Express* and *Ons Stad*.
- Prof. Jonathan Jansen, our Vice-Chancellor and Rector, has launched two books, *We need to talk* and *Bokdrolletjies en Rosyntjies*. His books have been mentioned in, among others, *Rapport*, *The Sowetan*, *leader.co.za* and on SAFM.
- Our university hosted a leadership summit which was attended by Grade 12 learners from across South Africa. The matriculants were addressed by different speakers on various topics. The *Mangaung Issue* and *Leadership* were two of the publications in which this news appeared.
- Two Kowsie students were cast in the movie *Skooneheid*, which was the first ever Afrikaans movie to be screened at the Cannes Film Festival. It was also awarded a prize at the festival. Reviews appeared *Volksblad* and *The Times*, among others.
- Our university has implemented a new format for examinations, starting in May 2011. This was news was published in *Ons Stad*, *Volksblad* and *Krant*.
- We were also selected to host Africa's first ever international conference concerning student affairs this year. *The New Age* and SAFM reported on this event.
- Three Kowsie students have been selected to represent South Africa in China as part of the South African Student Tennis team. This was reported in *Volksblad* and *Kampus Volksblad*.
- Our university has launched a Post-Graduate School to assist and cultivate postgraduate students. The launch was accompanied by various seminars illuminating postgraduate studies. The launch was reported in *Ons Stad*, *Bloemnuus* and *Beeld*.
- This year our university's Open Day attracted thousands of prospective students to our campus to experience being a Kowsie. The event was covered by OFM, *Mangaung Issue*, *Volksblad* and *Ons Stad*.

1. Willem Steenkamp, one of the Kowsies selected to represent South Africa in China as part of the South African Student Tennis team.
2. A record number of future students visited our Open Day this year.
3. Prof. Neil Roos, Director of our Postgraduate School, and Maresi Nerad, Extraordinary Professor of the school, at the recent opening of the school.



Terug **Vrystaat** toe!

Deur Cindé Greyling

In sy studeerkamer tuis boer professor Johann Neethling met boeke, wette en alles akademies. En iewers op 'n stuk grond naby Machadodorp is daar 'n kudde Nguni-beeste wat ook sy stem herken.

Dit is moeilik om iemand met 65 vol lewensjare in 'n paar woorde vas te vang. Maar met nege regshandboeke en byna 200 artikels agter die blad, is hierdie voormalige UNISA-prof beslis die regte man om Privaatreg op die Kowsiekampus na hoër hoogtes te neem. "Wat 'n eer!" sê hy nederig oor hierdie aanstelling. "My loopbaan het nou die volle sirkel voltooi, want in 1965 was ek 'n eerstejaar op die Bult!"

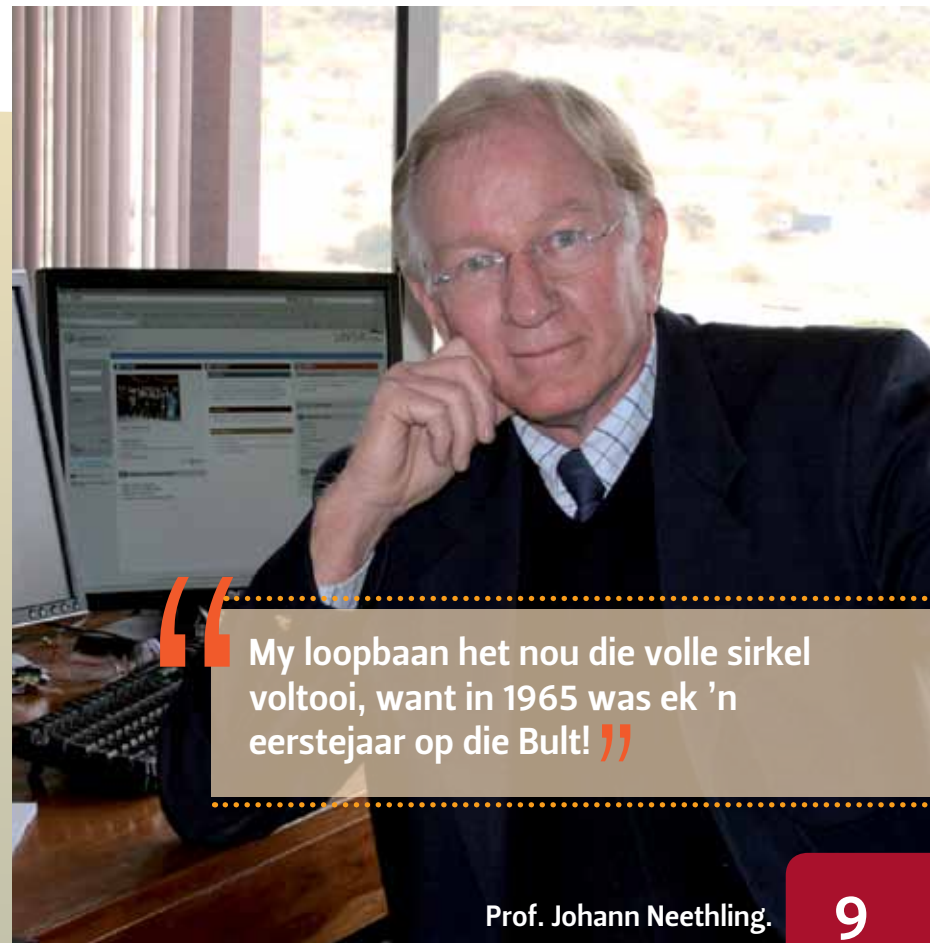
Hoewel hy eintlik 'n gebore Vrystater is, gaan hy vir eers sy huis in Pretoria as basis bly gebruik. Omdat hy net so twee keer per semester op kampus moet wees, maak dit net soveel meer sin. "Ek dink nie enigiemand sal kans sien om my biblioteek tuis te verskuif nie!" vertel prof. Neethling oor die wonderlike versameling literatuur wat hy deur die jare bymekaargemaak het.

Met sy meer as 40 jaar ondervinding in akademiese opleiding, gaan hy van onskatbare waarde vir die dosente by Privaatreg wees. En natuurlik sal sy publikasies Kowsies stewig help vestig as 'n navorsingsinstituut.

Buiten vir sy vol en ryk loopbaan, is hy ook die trotse pa van vier uitblykerkinders en vier kleinkinders. "My jongste dogter is pas as permanente dosent by UNISA aangestel," vertel hy trots. "Só, na 40 jaar is dit goed om te weet dat die Neethling-bloed nog steeds daar gaan vloei!"

Oor sy motivering om regte te gaan studeer, vertel hy van sy oom Hennie ... sy groot inspirasie! "Appelregter H.J.O. van Heerden is my ma se broer. Hy was só 'n gesiene advokaat dat ek opsluit ook een wou word! Na my studies is ek egter 'n pos by UNISA aangebied en ek het só lief geword vir die akademie dat ek dit steeds doen!"

Prof. Neethling is regtig mal oor sy werk en spot dat sy vrou sukkel om hom uit die studeerkamer uit te kry. "Ek is baie tevrede en sou my lewe nooit anders wou hê nie." Selfs na al sy oorsese reise het hy en sy vrou dit nog nooit oorweeg om te emigreer nie. "Ons wortels lê diep in hierdie land. En daar is hoop. As elkeen probeer om sy kant te bring, kan ons 'n sukses maak. Ek glo dit steeds."



“My loopbaan het nou die volle sirkel voltooi, want in 1965 was ek 'n eerstejaar op die Bult!”

Prof. Johann Neethling.

Herfsgradeplegtigheid 2011

'n GROOT sukses

By Leonie Bolleurs

Foto's: Hannes Pieterse, Gerhard Louw, Leonie Bolleurs



Vanjaar se Herfsgradeplegtigheidseremonie het 'n nuwe standaard vir gradeplegtighede in Suid-Afrika gestel. Alles vanaf die prosessie wat van die Rooi Plein na die Callie Human-sentrum beweeg het en vir die graduandi 'n erewag gevorm het tot die inspirerende boodskappe wat tydens die gradeplegtigheidseremonies gelewer is, het saamgewerk om hierdie 'n openbare feestelike gebeurtenis te maak wat lank in die geheue van ons gegradueerdes sal bly.

Die inspirerende toespraak van Shéri Brynard het meer as een ouer/graduandus se hartsnare aangeraak en elk met 'n boodskap van hoop gelaat. (Luister na Shéri Brynard se motiveringsboodskap wat sy tydens elk van die nege gradeplegtigheidseremonies gelewer het: <http://www.youtube.com/UFSWeb>).

Tydens die gradeplegtigheid het DW Bester, 'n Rhodes-beurshouer van ons universiteit, nie alleen die geleentheid gekry om die graduandi en die gehoor tydens elke herfsgradeplegtigheidssessie toe te spreek nie, maar is ook op

die tweede dag van die gradeplegtigheid met 'n Senaats- en Dekansmedalje vereer. Laasgenoemde is aan hom oorhandig as eerbewys vir sy eerste plek in die Fakulteit Natuur- en Landbouwetenskappe, wat hy met Ryan Eric Lamb deel. DW is tans by die Reserwebank in Pretoria as navorser werksaam. Die werksgeleentheid is 'n uitvloeisel van die beurs wat hy gekry het.

Verskeie kinders van personeel van ons universiteit het ook tydens die Herfsgradeplegtigheid hul grade ontvang. Die Herfsgradeplegtigheid was ook 'n besondere geleentheid vir die Brynard-gesin van Bloemfontein. Dr. Susette Brynard, van ons Skool vir Opvoedkunde-studie was promotor vir 'n doktorsgraad wat toegeken is. Haar dogter, Shéri, het by elke gradeplegtigheidssessie 'n boodskap gelewer, en nog 'n dogter, Suzette, het haar B.Sc.-graad ontvang.

Ons Visekanselier en Rektor het verskeie boodskappe van personeel, ouers en die publiek ontvang. Ons deel graag uittreksels van sommige van die boodskappe.



1. Sandra Venter, dogter van mnr. Nick Venter, Adjunkdirekteur van Studente Akademiese Dienste, wat haar B.Soc.Sc. (Verpleegkunde)-graad ontvang het.

2. Mee. Suzette en Shéri Brynard en hul ma, dr. Susette Brynard.

3. Dr. Hanli Joubert van ons Sentrum vir Rekeningkunde het die Kalie Strydom-prys vir die beste Ph.D.-verhandeling in Hoëronderwysstudies ontvang. Dr. Marianne Viljoen van ons Skool vir Hoëronderwysstudies was die promotor.

4. Hannerie Hay, dogter van proff. Johnnie en Driekie Hay, Viserektor: Akademies, wat haar B.Com. Regte-graad ontvang het.

5. Op ons Qwaqwa-kampus het dr. Daniel Bem (Fisika) en dr. James Ramontja (Polimeerwetenskap) hul doktorsgrade verwerf. Hier is hulle saam met prof. Riaan Luyt (middel) van ons Departement Chemie op die Qwaqwa-kampus.



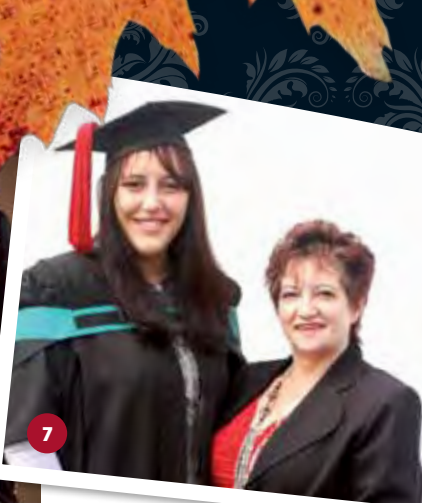
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10



11

"Dit was die heel beste gradeplegtighede wat ek in my dienstrydperk van 29 jaar aan die UV beleef het! Dit is 'n wonderlike voorreg om aan so 'n dinamiese universiteit verbonde te mag wees." - Prof. Andries Stulting, Hoof: Skool vir Geneeskunde (waarnemend)

"For the first time after almost a decade that I felt part and parcel of the graduation ceremony. I think as the University of the Free State we are pace-setters and we should continue with the spirit of togetherness to achieve greatness." - Dr Chitja Twala, Department of History

Alles was puik georganiseer - vanaf die eerste tromslag tot en met die hoede wat die lug in "gevlieg" het. Die keuse van die spreekster was uitstekend en terwyl ek die studente so dopgehou het, kon ek sien dat daardie jong meisie 'n indruk op die meeste van hul lewens gemaak het. Baie dankie vir 'n wonderlike ervaring wat ons saam met ons seun kon beleef en hartlik geluk met 'n pragtige gradeplegtigheid! - Danie en Carina, Citrusdal

Baie geluk! Die sigbaarheid van die plegtigheid buite die Callie Human is nuut, anders, inspirerend, aandoenlik (ek huil maklik vir wat mooi is!) en nogal "hip en cool"! - Dr. Annali Fichardt

Ek wil net van die geleentheid gebruik maak om u en u span geluk te wens met die wyse waarop die gradeplegtighede die jaar aangebied was. Dit is nou regtig lekker om weer 'n Kowsie te wees met aktiwiteite waarop 'n mens trots kan wees. Ek was 'n klompie jare op die Bos (Stellenbosch) en u weet hulle doen mos alles "beter" as ander. Wel, ek wil net se hierdie plegtighede was male sonder tal beter as die by Stellenbosch. - Dr. Johan van Zyl, Departement Ondernemingsbestuur

6. Prof. Pieter Verster van ons Fakulteit Teologie en sy vrou Ernene Verster by die Argief vir Eietydse Aangeleenthede se twee dogters het ook elkeen graad gekry. Saam met prof. Verster en sy vrou is Frida Verster wat graad B.A. Mediastudies ontvang het en Wanda Verster wat die graad M.Arch.Prof ontvang het.

7. Leandré Wilken, dogter van Tertia Wilken van Xerox op ons Bloemfontein-kampus, het haar B.Ed. in Voorskoolse en Primêre skool-onderwys ontvang.

8. Albert Nell het die Dekaaansmedalje in ons Fakulteit Regsgeleerdheid behaal. Hier is hy saam met sy moeder, Hester Nell.

9. Vir die eerste keer in ons Fakulteit Teologie se geskiedenis het drie dames op dieselfde gradeplegtigheid 'n doktorgaad in Teologie ontvang. Hier saam met prof. Jonathan Jansen (links) is dr. Madelein Fourie, Praktiese Teologie, dr. Lyzette Hoffman, Praktiese Teologie, en dr. Rachel Fiedler, Kerkgeskiedenis.

10. Wessel van Zyl, seun van prof. Gert van Zyl, Dekaan van ons Fakulteit Gesondheidswetenskappe, wat sy graad in B.Com. Rekeningkunde ontvang het.

11. Marthinus Ras, seun van Jan Ras, dosent aan ons Departement Argitektuur, wat sy B.Com.-graad in Rekeningkunde ontvang het.

Student determined to change lives for the better

By Gerda-Marie Viviers

There is nothing mediocre about Nanogamso Koza, or Soso, as she is lovingly referred to. Heading a registered charitable trust aimed to serve as a hub of programmes and mechanisms for the development of public schools, educators and communities at large, this B.A. Media Studies student is determined to change the current fate of the youth.

Coming from a disadvantaged background and school days characterised by a dysfunctional library and an underequipped Science lab, she made an oath to herself to change these circumstances; something which she believes the Inqubela Foundation is enabling her to do.

Inqubela, which means 'progress', and was launched during last year's Soccer World Cup, comes from a humble beginning, as it was initially funded from the members' own pockets and taxi money to attend meetings was not a given. However, despite these and the challenge of being isiXhosa in a dominantly Sesotho region, the organisation is, with the help of some staff members from our university such as Dr Choice Makhetha, our Vice-Rector: External Relations (acting) and Dr Derek Swemmer,

our Registrar, well on its way to achieve its 2015 goal; to ensure a 100% matric pass rate.

Nanogumso, one of our former SRC members and LLB graduate, said that, together with this goal, the organisation also focuses on learner empowerment and leadership development. "As early as Grade eight, we work hard at ensuring they know and understand the value and importance of education."

According to Nanogumso, one of the biggest challenges facing today's youth is the absence of inspirational leadership in communities. According to her, a recent indaba revealed that 40% of learners

Nanogamso in the community where she works to make a difference.

support Oprah as their role model. "Do you want to tell me that in the schools, communities, churches anywhere in the country, there is not even a single person they can look up to and aspire to be like? I think as young adults and adults we should be asking ourselves if we are not confusing them by not walking the talk."

On the question of what she aspires to achieve, this go-getter said: "My goal is to do all I can to improve the quality of education in our communities at large. It is a journey that is an amazing experience."



WARM greetings from a cold campus

Our Strategic Communication team received a warm welcome from our colleagues on the Qwaqwa Campus when they paid a visit to this beautiful campus in the Eastern Free State.

According to Lacea Loader, Director: Strategic Communication, the team embarked on the visit to familiarise themselves with the campus and also, most importantly to discuss areas of communication needs with the management structure of the campus, Dr Elias Malete, our Campus Head, Teboho Manchu and Prof. Willie van Zyl.

Karen Minnaar, Officer at Strategic Communication said: "I would definitely come and visit this campus again, more so when the students are not writing exams, so that I can see the university at its best." - Phelekwa Mpono

"I would definitely come and visit this campus again."



Team members from Strategic Communication with the management structure of our Qwaqwa Campus during a recent visit to the campus.



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Photo: Stephen Collett



With Glancina Mokone is George Michalakakis, her teammate, during the moot court competition in Vienna, Austria.

From Odendaalsrus to Austria

Born and bred at Odendaalsrus, Glancina Mokone, LL.M. student in Economic Law at our university, had the opportunity to argue a case in Vienna, Austria, with ten of her fellow students.

"In October last year we started to work on a case for moot court, our focus being the United Nations Convention on the International Sale of Goods (CISG). I really enjoyed the experience and the challenges that presented themselves to me, representing my faculty and my university," Glancina said.

Leaving a good impression on the arbitrators, Glancina plans to further her career in law and will be studying towards her LL.D. in International Economic Law from 2012. "It is an excellent field of study because it will permit me to undertake many exploits internationally," she said.

Glancina, who received her LL.M. at our recent autumn graduation ceremony, will also study towards her LL.D. at our Faculty of Law. "I am really happy to be part of the best faculty on campus and one of the best in the country," she said. – **Leonie Bolleurs**



Onnies en Ouers prikkel lagspiere

Die Departement Drama en Teaterkuns is voorwaar 'n voorloper in die lewering van produksies. Die aanbieding van die drama *Onnies en Ouers* is bewys hiervan. Die produksie is deur John Dighton geskryf en is deur A.J.B. de Klerk in 1971 vertaal. Die regie was onder leiding van Thys Heydenrych. *Onnies en Ouers* speel in 'n seunsskool op die platteland af. Die pampoen tref die waaier wanneer 'n damesskool in die omgewing afbrand en die onderwysdepartement opdrag gee dat die dames by die seunsskool moet intrek. Hier is, van links: Johan Odendal (Mnr. Pont), Juliana Geldenhuys (Mev. Piek) en Armon Barnard (Ds. Piek). – **Anri Bredenkamp**



Ms Winfrey's visit to UFS is a huge success

By the time you are reading this article, our university would have become the first university on African soil to confer an honorary Doctorate of Education to Ms Oprah Winfrey.

Incredible excitement, loads of media interest and long queues for tickets, to what may have been the most anticipated event in the history of our university, all preceded the visit of Ms Winfrey to the UFS.

Ms Winfrey was honoured with an honorary Doctorate of Education on 24 June 2011, and never before has an honorary degree caused such a stir at our university.

Security was strict and tickets to the event became a prized commodity, as everyone hoped to see their heroine. More than 4 000 people filled the Callie Human Centre, with the hope of getting close to and rubbing shoulders with one of the world's most influential people.

Ms Winfrey made time, after receiving her degree, to address the huge Bloemfontein audience and also answered a few questions from students in the audience.

After the big day, the excitement faded and life seemed to return to normal. The only difference being that now, Oprah is a Kowsie just like you. – **Earl Coetzee**

Staff and students queuing to collect their tickets for Ms Winfrey's graduation ceremony.



Ms Oprah Winfrey.

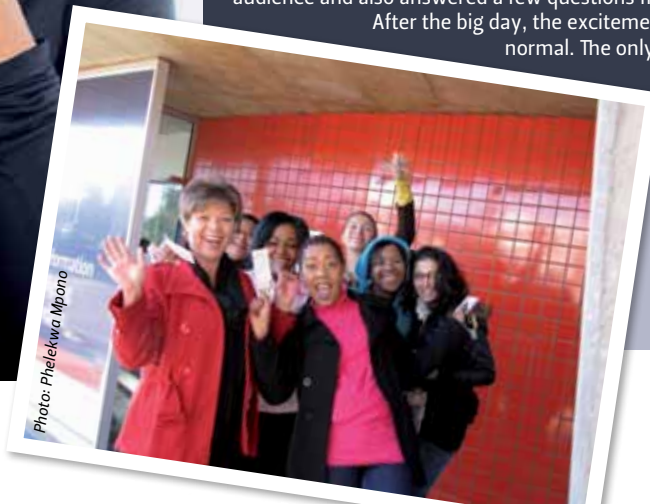


Photo: Phetlelewa Mpono



PIMENTO: a meant-to-be

By Martie Bitzer and Gerda-Marie Viviers

On the Thakaneng Bridge a space has been adapted to give our staff a place to pause (and indulge!). This new staff restaurant is called Pimento and is located on the western side of the complex in a space that has previously been used as a computer lab.

Theunie Klopper, known and loved by all for keeping us gastronomically content between meetings and seminars, has moved in and will officially be open for business from June onwards. And, if the excitement of staff members, who have already the privilege of a taste of what this haven has to offer is anything to go by, Kovsies are definitely in for a treat!

More commonly known as allspice, Pimento has been chosen to show its support of the diverse profile of our staff – all are welcome and, yes, we have sidestepped translating it into all relevant languages! Some will remember Teunie from Die Stalle (Ou Presidensie) days, others her makeshift restaurant in the Wynand's foyer during the Volksblad Arts Festival last year.

The approach with regard to the interior could be referred to as boere-zen. An eclectic mix of old within the new and a little bit tongue-in-the-cheek will welcome you. When this assembly place for food lovers is not booked to

host theme nights or dish up the best for functions at night, the doors will be open from 07:00 to 15:00 during weekdays, offering customers the best of a la carte, buffets and takeaways, and if all goes according to the wish list, even different wine cultivars!

"Pimento, with its 80 chairs, is sure to offer a feast table, the best coffee and nicest atmosphere in town," says Fred Kruger from the Division Corporate Relations on campus.

The word Pimento, like many other things in life, has more than one interpretation – we loved them both! Pimento can be described as a cherry pepper, which is a variety of large red, heart-shaped chilli pepper. These sweet pimento peppers are also the familiar red stuffing found in prepared Spanish green olives, added to complement the olives' flavour.

Pimento is also known as the berry tree originating from Jamaica, better known as Allspice. These berries remind one of the combined flavour of cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves and pepper, just like our staff profile here on campus – a variety of people and opinions adding spice to Kovsie life!

Photo: Anja Aucamp



Theunie Klopper at one of the finest dining spaces in town.

Gedenkpark vir vroue open op Vrouedag

Vroue wat oor die jare 'n prominente rol aan ons universiteit gespeel het, hetsy in die akademie of op ander gebiede, sal binnekort deur 'n gedenktuin vereer word.

Mickey Gordon, die Hoof: Korporatiewe Betrekkinge, Institusionele Bevordering en Sport, nooi personeel om name aan hom deur te gee van vroue wat 'n verskil gemaak het by die universiteit. 'n Naam wat reeds op die lys verskyn, sluit in dié van me. Winkie Direko, 'n voormalige Kanselier van ons universiteit en ook voormalige Premier van die Vrystaat.

Die tuin wat agter ons Hoofgebou aangebring gaan word, is volgens Mickey fase een van 'n projek wat later ook 'n botaniese tuin gaan insluit. Ná die onlangse verbeteringe rondom die Chemiegebou op ons Bloemfontein-kampus, is daar besluit om aandag te skenk aan die ruimte tussen die Hoofgebou en dié gebou. Die spesifieke area vorm deel van die groter beplande botaniese tuin.

"In konsep is die idee nie om bloot net nog 'n botaniese tuin te skep nie, maar eerder om die landskap te ontwikkel as funksionele ruimtes wat in die behoeftes van kampusgebruikers voorsien en om interpretasie en kennis met die gebruikers op 'n meer informele wyse te deel," sê Siegwalt Kusel van Habitat Landscape Architects.

Tydens die konsep-ontwikkeling van die ontwerp is die behoefte aan 'n gedenkarea vir vroue deur die projekspan geopper. Die ruimte tussen die Hoofgebou, die Chemiegebou en die Fakulteit Natuur- en Landbouwetenskappe se kantore het 'n ideale geleentheid vir die ontwikkeling van die gedenkruiimte gebied.

Volgens Siegwalt, wat deur ons universiteit gekontrakteer is om met die oprigting van die gedenkpark te help, is daar in die middel van die plaza as fokuselement 'n groot betonstruktuur waaruit 'n vyeboom en plante gaan groei, aangebring. Die konsep is om te probeer om 'n "lewende gedenkelement" te skep wat met tyd sal groei en verander. Die struktuur skep 'n gevoel van standvastigheid en laat ruimte vir 'n proses van groei en ontwikkeling.

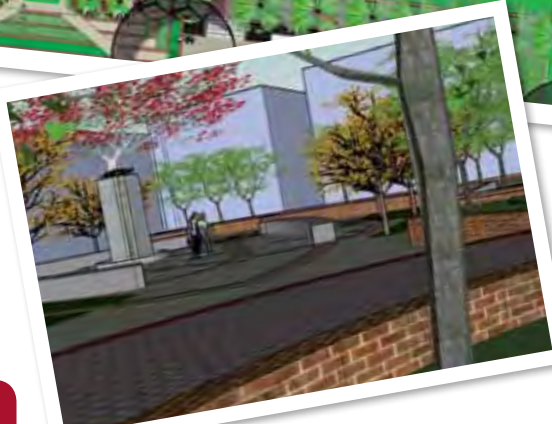
Die universiteit se handelsmerk word in die plaza deur teëlpatrone uitgebeeld en is plek-plek opgebou om bankies te vorm.

"Skadubome is ook deel van die plein om die geboue se skaal 'n bietjie af te bring en 'n meer persoonlike/intieme gevoel in die area te skep. Die plantkeuses vir die tuin is ook só gemaak dat die tuin regdeur die jaar goed sal vertoon en heelwat blomme sal dra," sê Siegwalt.

Die ontwerp inkorporeer ook sekere ekologies sensitiewe benaderings tot stormwaterhantering, asook spesie-diversifisering met die ongeveer 80 plantspesies wat geplant gaan word.

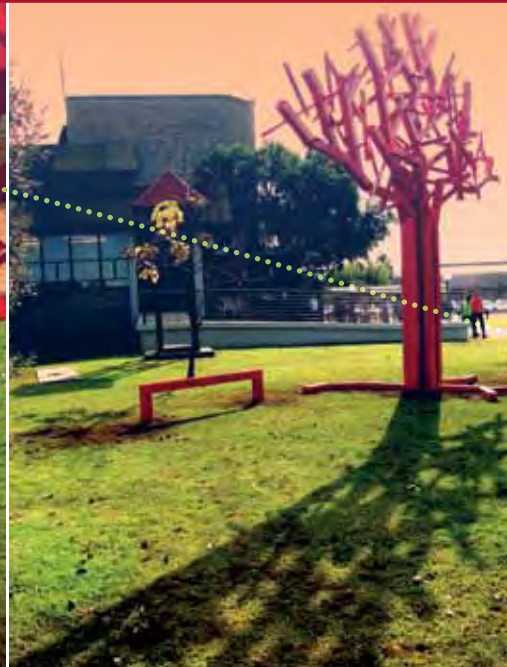
Na raming sal fase een van die projek, wat in Junie 'n aanvang neem, op Vrouedag bekendgestel word.

Daar is ook 'n voorstel vir ons Hoofingang se tuine op die tafel. Die konsep rondom die herontwikkeling van die ingang na die universiteit is om die argitektoniese intervensie met 'n agtergrond van plante te ondersteun. Die ruimte is tans oorvol en beknop. Die plante sal in massas in groot areas saamgegroepeer word om die landskap te vereenvoudig. Die nuwe plante sal almal inheems wees. – Leonie Bolleurs





Foto's: Earl Coetzee



Red Tree voor die Winkie Direko-gebou.

Opvoedkunde onthul nuwe boom van kennis

Ons universiteit het 'n splinternuwe toevoeging tot die groeiende versameling van beeldhouwerk op ons Bloemfontein-kampus gemaak in die vorm van Stellenbosch-gebaseerde kunstenaar, Strijdom van der Merwe, se beeldhouwerk met die titel, *Red Tree*.

Hierdie indrukwekkende nuwe beeldhouwerk voor die Winkie Direko-gebou, wat ons Fakulteit Opvoedkunde huisves, maak deel uit van die Lotto Beeldhou-op-Kampus-projek. Hierdie grootskaalse projek strewende daarna om 'n unieke en permanente openbare beeldhouversameling op die kampus te skep en word befonds deur die Nasionale Lotery se Verspreidingsstrustfonds (NLDTF).

Die sleutelfokus van die projek is om diverse, ruimte-spesifieke en moontlik interaktiewe beeldhouwerke oral op ons Bloemfontein-kampus te plaas.

Die projek het oor die afgelope twee jaar verskeie kunswerke bekom, asook opdrag gegee aan kunstenaars om te skep – talle van toonaangewende

Suid-Afrikaanse beeldhouers – wat op verskillende plekke op die kampus opgerig is.

Die *Red Tree* is ongeveer vyf meter hoog en ses meter breed, en is op die grasperk voor die Winkie Direko-gebou langs die UV-Sasol-biblioteek opgerig. Die werk bestaan uit 'n rooi metaalboom met wortelagtige vorms wat uit die grond verrys en wat 'n dubbele doel dien, naamlik ook as bankies om op te sit. Die beeldhouwerk skep 'n vergaderplek vir leer en deel, en verteenwoordig 'n Afrika-gebruik om onder 'n boom te vergader en te leer.

Wat die beeldhouwerk ekstra spesiaal maak vir ons kollegas by die Winkie Direko-gebou is die feit dat die embleem van ons Fakulteit Opvoedkunde ook 'n groot boom bevat.

Prof. Dennis Francis, Dekaan van die Fakulteit Opvoedkunde, was baie in sy skik met die nuwe beeldhouwerk. "Baie imposant! Ek hou daarvan! Ek hou daarvan!" het hy gesê. "Die kunswerk is nie bestel nie; Strijdom van der Merwe het die opdrag ontvang om 'n ruimte te skep wat die

opvoedkundige en multikulturele ervaring van personeel, studente en besoekers verryk," het hy bygevoeg.

Strijdom sê dat hy baie tevrede is met die visie van die universiteit om beeldhouwerk oral op die kampus te plaas. "In 'n land waar daar soveel behoeftes bestaan, is dit wonderlik om te weet dat hulle net soveel waarde heg aan die feit dat die visuele net so 'n groot rol in die positiese gemoed van die mens speel en dat dit bydra tot 'n hoër vlak van waardering en verhoudinge.

"Aangesien die meeste onderrig nog steeds onder bome plaasvind, was dit die logiese keuse om 'n boom te skep. Die verskil is egter dat die boom se wortels uit die grond in banke in die skadu van die boom uitloop, met die gedagte dat dit ook as 'n funksionele kommoditeit kan dien," sê hy.

Oor die volgende paar maande gaan die universiteit ook kunswerke deur Pat Mautloa, Willem Boshoff en Brett Murray op verskeie plekke op die kampus oprig. – **Earl Coetzee**

New entrance makes for a safer Qwaqwa Campus

Our Qwaqwa Campus will soon boast a brand-new entrance, both for cars and pedestrians.

According to Mickey Gordon, Head: Corporate Relations, Institutional Advancement and Sport at our university, the entrance is a necessity, because access to the campus is currently only through a gate which is used by motorists, taxis and pedestrians.

The new development will make provision for two entrances, one for pedestrians and one for motorists. "This will enhance our security and it will contribute to traffic flow on the campus," Mickey said.

Furthermore, the development will also make provision for a parking area for taxis and some vehicles outside the campus, also contributing to the traffic flow on the campus.

Visually the entrance will be in line with our university's corporate look and feel, and in terms of design it is an extension of the entrance at our Bloemfontein Campus. According to Mickey, colleagues and students at our South Campus could also look forward to a new entrance, as the



Graphic artists' representation of the new entrance to our Qwaqwa Campus.

university is looking into the possibility of redesigning the entrance to our South Campus in Bloemfontein.

Work to this project, still in the planning phase, will commence in September 2011.

Other developments currently on our Qwaqwa Campus include a new Education Building. This building will include a lecturing hall with 100 seats, four 50-seat classrooms, six offices, ablution facilities, a biology and science laboratory, as well as an information technology laboratory for 60 students. The building will be completed by August this year.

We are also busy with a building project on our Qwaqwa Campus where a residence with 200 beds is being constructed. The residence will also house a computer laboratory. – **Leonie Bolleurs**



Hoor wie praat!

Deur Cindé Greyling

Twee baie opgewonde personelede is by Strategiese Kommunikasie op die kampus aangestel. En hulle koppe is omtrent vol idees. Die een sluit haar dag met 'n koppie koffie en koekies af en die ander een noem sy skootrekenaar "pragtig" en sal heeldag Playstation speel ... maar een ding het hulle wel in gemeen: Om te vertel wat op die Kopsiekampus gebeur!

Lelanie de Wet en Earl Coetzee is die nuwe bloed wat in Strategiese Kommunikasie se are vloei. Lelanie kyk onder andere na die webblad se inhoud en sorg dat die sosiale medikanale op datum bly. Van Earl se pligte sluit kommunikasie na die studente toe in, hetsy elektronies of persoonlik. Dan sorg hulle natuurlik ook dat die nodige interne studentenuus land waar dit moet.

"Deel van my werk," verduidelik Earl, "is om vergaderings tussen studente en die topbestuur te reël. Maar ek wil meer doen as dit," sê hy. "Ek wil graag toesien dat die studente verstaan word. Omdat ek self nog jonk is, hoop ek om 'n groot verskil te maak – ek verstaan die studente dalk beter as die ouer bestuurslede."

Earl kom vanuit 'n joernalistieke agtergrond en glo sy vars benadering tot kommunikasie sal ook help. "Ek sien dinge effens anders as my kollegas. Hulle het oor die algemeen 'n meer positiewe uitkyk, wat nie altyd realisties is nie."

Lelanie het amper 'n onregverdigde voordeel ... wie moet nou 'n student te oortuig om te Facebook of Twitter? Maar dit is juis hier waar die uitdaging in sosiale media vir haar lê. "Dit moenie net vir hulle 'n tydverdryf wees nie, maar 'n werklike kommunikasiekanaal met die universiteit." Een van haar drome is ook om die webblad só te ontwikkel dat dit gemaklik met internasionale webblaaie kan kompeteer.

Uit die vuil uit gesels dié twee so:

Lelanie: Ek dink nie dit is moontlik ... "vir mense om mekaar ooit ten volle te verstaan nie, maar kennis van mekaar kan beslis help".

Earl: My aartsvyand sou my beskryf as ... "slim, super-cool en baie nederig ... iemand soos wie hy/sy baie graag wil wees ;-)"

Lelanie: My eerste woorde... "Hoewel my ma nie kan onthou wanneer ek begin praat het nie, of wat my eerste woord was nie (!) doen ek nou oukei. Ek het vriende, 'n goeie werk ... en is darem ook getroud!"

Earl: Ek wil nooit, ooit ... "in 'n tronk beland nie. Ek het gesien waarop Ross Kemp afgekom het in Pollsmoor se bendes ... en ek't ook die Grootvlei-video gekyk. Nooit, ooit nie. Ek hou deesdae by die spoedgrens ook!"

Lelanie: Wat verstaan jy nie? "Daar is baie dinge wat ek nie verstaan nie, maar hoe kan jy dit ooit oor jou hart kry om 'n kind seer te maak?"

Earl: My gunsteling aanhalig is ... *I'll take my seat atop the Brooklyn bridge with a Coke and a bag of chips and watch a thousand lemmings plummet, just because the first one slipped.* – Aesop Rock. "Doen eerder jou eie ding!"

Dink mooi oor wat jy wil sê ... want dié twee gaan sorg dat iemand jou hoor en ook jou woorde verstaan.

Earl Coetzee.

Lelanie de Wet.

Hoop jy al jou harde werk bring jou iets in die sak?

Waarvoor jy ookal hoop, maak seker dat jy die regte plan daarvoor inspan. Ek kan jou deur die besluite lei wat jou finansiële toekoms sal beïnvloed. Met Sanlam se omvattende portefeulje oplossings kan ek voorstelle maak oor wat jy werklik nodig het.

- Finansiële beplanning
- Spaar en beleggings
- Persoonlike dekking
- Aftreevoorsiening
- Testamente en trusts
- Voorsiening vir jou kinders se opvoeding

Bel my vir deskundige advies, aangevul deur korttermynversekering en selfs belastingontleding as dit nodig is.



Ben Opperman
Senior Onafhanklike Finansiële Beplanner
051 407 8156
082 457 2240
benoprnm@intekom.co.za

Sanlam
Ons dink vooruit

SANLAM LEWENS IS 'N GELISENIEERDE VERSKAFER VAN FINANSIËLE DIENSTE



Hier is studente van ons Departement Arbeidsterapie, asook van die koshuise wat aan die rally deelgeneem het.

Arbeidsterapie laat die wiele rol

Die fokus van vanjaar se Rolstoel-rally wat deur ons Departement Arbeidsterapie in samewerking met KOVSGEM aangebied word, het op studentebetrokkenheid geval.

Die doel van die rally wat voor ons Hoofgebou op die Rooi Plein gehou is, is om bewustheid van persone in die gemeenskap met gestremdhede te bevorder. Die rally dien verder ook as 'n fondsinsamelingsprojek. Alle opbrengste word aan 'n behoeftige instansie in Bloemfontein geskenk wat in die behoeftes van persone in die gemeenskap met fisiese en psigiese gestremdhede voorsien. – Sandra Gouws

The leader behind our young UFS leaders

By Earl Coetzee

With his boyish looks and casual demeanour, one could easily mistake Yeki Mosomothane, Senior Officer of Student Communities and Leadership Development in the Office of the Dean of Student Affairs, for one of the students he works with.

Yeki is responsible for the Student Communities and Leadership development in student life across our university's three campuses and his schedule is therefore quite hectic. He works with student organisations and student leaders in order to roll out leadership and citizenship development programmes, which target all students and focus on ethical, servant and counter-cultural leadership development.

"We run leadership training programmes throughout the year for student leaders serving on the SRC, in executive committees of student associations and Residence Committees. I'm also responsible for the SRC elections and provide student governance structures such as the student parliament and the student court with support throughout the year. I see to it that all students belong to some community on campus and actively participate in decisions of students as proud Kovsies!"

Yeki has been involved in leadership development initiatives since 1994, when he was part of a programme that aimed to

unite young leaders from across South Africa's racial and cultural spectrum. He has also worked as a leadership development consultant at several universities across the country.

Our university became his employer of choice, because he believes we have immense potential to be internationally recognised for our work in student development and the holistic approach taken in developing students as future leaders.

"I support this approach fully and can't think of a better place to achieve this than at Kovsies."

"It is my passion to bring together young people from diverse communities and together construct ethical and servant leadership models that is uniquely African," he says.

Considering how busy his schedule is, it should come as no surprise that the thirty-something Yeki has not found time to get married yet. When asked what he does to unwind, he asks: "Do people still have time to relax and have fun?"

He does seem to have some yearning for peace and quiet though, since he seems to have dreams of cowbells and quiet peaceful pastures in the back of his mind.

This is the only explanation for his answer to the question of what he would be doing if he weren't working at the UFS: "Farming!"

Yeki Mosomothane.

The *Cream* of the Kovsie-crop soon to be revealed

By Earl Coetzee

Seventy-one of our brightest and most promising first-year students jetted off to America last year as part of our university's Student Leadership Programme. The skills and experiences they acquired during this year were so spectacular and the programme such a huge success, that the number of first-years who will experience this opportunity in 2011 has been more than doubled!

The selection process has started to select the 150 brightest young students from our first-year class of 2011. More than 180 candidates were put through a nerve-wracking selection panel process on our Main and Qwaqwa Campuses between 26 and 28 May 2011. These students were selected after hours of poring over Curriculum Vitae and essays submitted by hopefuls for the programme.

The bar was set extremely high, as all the candidates who made it through to the selection phase were outstanding academic, cultural and sports achievers. They had to prepare a seven-minute presentation and field questions from the selection panels, comprising various academic and support staff members.

There was no room for mistakes, as each student meant to impress and ensure their place in the programme and nearly every candidate left the panel members awestruck with their eloquence and maturity. This means choosing the top 150 students will be a gruelling process for the programme committee.

In the end, the months of planning and long hours poring over CVs and panellist notes will be worth it, as the next batch of Kovsie leaders will be selected and making their way to universities in America, Europe, Asia and the rest of the African continent.

1. Students awaiting their turn to present their best to the selection panel.
2. One of our students in action as members of the selection panel decide whether he will make it.



Photos: Anja Aucamp



Here are Academic Head, Prof. Willie van Zyl (third from the left) with some of the participants in the Teaching and Learning initiative.

Qwaqwa Campus focusses on quality teaching and learning

The announcement that the next round of the Council on Higher Education's institutional reviews would focus on the quality of Teaching and Learning and student success motivated the start of a teaching and learning improvement project on our Qwaqwa Campus. According to Dr Elize Smuts, Teaching and Learning Coordinator at our Qwaqwa Campus, the project aims to build the educational expertise of staff, which could also serve as a stepping stone towards the scholarship of Teaching and Learning.

The focus is on collaborative actions in building lecturers' knowledge and skills, generically as well as in the disciplines, the fostering of deep reflectivity and the promotion of an inquiry orientation towards teaching and learning.

A group of twelve of our colleagues presented their action research plans to an academic audience focus, *inter alia* on Blackboard, service learning, reading skills, study methods, teaching methods, bringing practice to the classroom, student engagement and inviting motivational guest lecturers.

Since participatory team work is promoted, lecturers implement their plans in an interdisciplinary mode. Various workshops, structured according to staff members' needs are delivered. The project leaders give attention to extrinsic and intrinsic motivation to get maximum participation in this self-reflective quality assurance activity.

The culmination point of the project will be a Qwaqwa Campus Prestige Forum on 21 October 2011 where nominated successful academics will receive excellence awards.

- Dr Elize Smuts

tell us about it ...

Success and hard work. This is the common factor all four our interviewees have in common. Our two successful movie stars (almost), an attorney and researcher, told Nanogamso Koza and Earl Coetzee about their claim to fame ...



Mart Kotzé and Jefferson J Dirks-Korkee.

Jefferson J Dirks-Korkee and Mart Kotzé

Jefferson J Dirks-Korkee from Willowmore in the Eastern Cape and Mart Kotzé recently made history by being the first students from our Department of Drama and Theatre Arts featuring in an Afrikaans South African film *Skooneheid*, the first ever to be shown at the Cannes Film Festival.

Both Mart and Jefferson are excited and honoured by this great opportunity, not only to star next to some of South Africa's best talent, but also to feature in a movie which won the Queer Palm Award at the 2011 Cannes International Film Festival, where Robert de Niro was the chairperson of the panel of judges, Jefferson had to add.

"I have learned at Kovies that acting is not easy. Actors are paid to make it look easy. If you don't believe in the character you portray, neither will the audience. I would love to be doing my own one-man show or even shows and travel all over South Africa, bringing theatre to the people. I just want to work in the theatre full-time. I see myself as a theatre practitioner," said Jefferson.

"Our university has a great Drama and Theatre Arts Department that offers students the opportunity not only to learn how to be an actor, but also apply the skills acquired practically. There is a maximum exposure to the implementation of theoretical work," concluded Mart.

Mart, a product of Fichardtspark High School in Bloemfontein, currently reading for her Master's degree in Drama and Theatre Arts, starred in amongst others the children's productions, *Boer Manie se melk word SUUR!* and *Boer Manie en die Basaar*, written by Ilne Fourie.

Jefferson, who recently received his B.A. Drama and Theatre degree, is busy with his honours studies. He starred in amongst others the production *Jonas* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, which was staged to reopen the Wynand Mouton Theatre this year.



Gcobisa Sigwili.

Gcobisa Sigwili

Candidate attorney at DLA Cliffe Dekker Hofmeyr, Gcobisa Sigwili, stated that she would cherish the lessons she learnt as a Kovies student and leader forever.

Born at Kokstad in the Eastern Cape and finishing her schooling at Zingisa Comprehensive High School in uMthatha, Gcobisa also remembers dreaming of becoming an airhostess, like most girls she grew up with.

"I believe that my love of speaking, the desire to help people, as well as my motto that says 'Knowledge is power, but knowledge of law is powerful, influenced my choice of study. That, and my dad who in his wisdom pushed me towards Law. There was a tie between law and communications. When my father recommended communications, in true daughter-rebel style, I chose law," Gcobisa responded about her career choice.

Gcobisa believes our university played a great role in her career success. "In my first year at varsity, I made a decision not to involve myself in any leadership positions. However, once the leadership bug had bitten there was no escape.

"Being a leader at Kovies has enhanced qualities in my life such as humility, compassion, gratitude and perseverance in the face of adversity. The most important lesson I learnt was to set aside my pride and to serve the people who elected me. I enjoyed it and will forever be grateful to God and my former residence, Huis Koos, for opening the doors for me as well as everyone who believed in my leadership skills, such as Sasco, our former Vice-Rector Student Affairs: Prof. Ezekiel Moraka, Dr Choice Makhetha and Dr Wynoma Michaels," added Gcobisa.

"It's true that only a Kovie knows the feeling," said this former SRC Ladies Internal, who recently received her LL.B. at this year's Autumn Graduation Ceremony, and who is also a member of the Golden Key Society, an honour bestowed on her as early as her first year at our university.



Prof. Muriel Meiring.

Prof. Muriel Meiring

Prof. Muriel Meiring is responsible for establishing the Specialised Haemostasis Laboratory at our university and the Universitas Hospital's National Health Laboratory Service. She established this centre as a reference centre for Von Willebrand disease, a genetic bleeding disorder, in South Africa. This laboratory is internationally recognised for their research and as a reference laboratory.

Prof. Muriel develops and tests antithrombotic (anti-clotting) agents and her long list of publications, research awards and congress presentations has recently earned her a nomination for the Department of Science and Technology's Distinguished Woman Scientist Award.

She started her journey as a scientist in 1995, when she received the Dean's Medal for the best M.Med.Sc. student in our Faculty of Health Sciences. She completed her Ph.D. in Haematology under Prof. Harry Kotze in the following year.

In 1997 she did Thrombosis Research at the University of Louvain in Belgium, after receiving a bursary from the Flemish Government. Upon her return to South Africa, she got right back to work by setting up the Haemostasis Laboratory at our university. At present, medical facilities from all over the country make use of her and her team's expertise when testing for blood disorders and she hopes to expand the centre even further.

Prof. Muriel aims to make testing for and identifying Von Willebrand disease much more affordable and also to develop more complete and effective tests, which can be sold in kits to hospitals and medical facilities.

"We aim to make diagnostic tests as affordable as possible, by developing and producing our own anti-bodies and techniques. It must be as cost-effective as possible in order to provide a better service to the people of our province and the country," she says.

Foto: Gallo Images



Dr. Derik (links) help 'n beseerde Bryan Habana van die veld tydens die Springbokke se toets teen Argentinië in 2004. Regs is dr. Yusuf Hassan.

Dr. Derik sleutelrolspeler in Bokke se voorbereiding

Deur Ruan Bruwer

Wanneer jy skielik in 'n Wêreldbekerjaar 'n oproep kry en gevra word om die Springbokke te kom help, dan kan jy maar weet, jy het iets om te bied. Dit is wat met dr. Derik Coetzee van ons Departement Oefen- en Sportwetenskappe gebeur het.

Hy is op 1 Mei, ná hy van 2004 tot 2007 die Bokke se kondisioneringsafriktter was, weer by die Springbokrugbyspan betrek. Die Bokkefrigter, Peter de Villiers, was só ywerig om vir dr. Derik te betrek dat hy persoonlik ons rektor, prof. Jonathan Jansen, gaan sien het.

“My voorgaande klasse word in die tweede semester deur 'n kollega aangebied, wat ingestem het met die voorbehoud dat ons die beker wen,” het die spontane dr. Derik gesê.

Volgens hom is sy primêre taak as kondisioneringshoof om te help sorg dat die Springbokke teen 23 Oktober 2011 hulle beste spelpeil bereik. Dis wanneer die Wêreldbeker-eindstryd in Auckland, Nieu-Seeland, beslis word.

“Die spelers moet dan hul beste peil, sielkundig, fisiek en emosioneel, bereik. My pligte gaan ondermeer die optimalisering van die spelers se spier- en eksplosiewe krag, spoed, anaërobiese vermoë en tegniese vaardighede behels,” verduidelik Coetzee.

Hy het sy eerste maand van sy aanstelling hoofsaaklik aan beplanning bestee.

“Ons wil geen steen onaangeroer laat nie. Elke speler word weekliks gemonitor en elke dag tot en met die Wêreldbeker-eindstryd word tot in die fynste besonderhede beplan. Dis baie belangrik dat die kondisioneringsafriktter verseker dat die spelers nie oorleef word nie,” sê dr. Derik.

Sedert hy in 2007 met die Bokke klaargemaak het, het hy nie heeltemal van die sportveld verdwyn nie. Vanjaar het hy Shimlas se gal gewerk wat derde in die Varsity-beker geëindig het, die span se beste prestasie nog. Hy het ook met Bloemfontein Celtic hand bygesit en as konsultant vir die Suid-Afrikaanse mans- en vrouespan opgetree.

Wat het vir hom as motivering gedien om weer by die Bokke betrokke te raak? “My droom is reeds twee keer verwesenlik. Eers met die Suid-Afrikaanse o.21-span se verowering van hul wêreldkampioenskap in 2002 en toe om die William Webb Ellis-beker in 2007 omhoog te hou.

“’n Derde beker klink net volmaak. Om ’n Wêreldbeker te wen is ’n droom, maar as dit nie waar word nie, geld dieselfde vir ’n hele rugbyspan. Ek besef dus die verantwoordelikheid wat met die aanstelling gepaardgaan,” het dr. Derik bygevoeg.

Dr. Derik Coetzee, dosent aan ons Departement Oefen- en Sportwetenskappe, met die William Webb Ellis-beker wat die Springbokke in 2007 in Frankryk verower het. Hy hoop om later vanjaar weer daardie beker omhoog te hou.

Foto: Verskaf

’n Nematode.

Wurmpie diep in Suid-Afrikaanse myne maak opslae



'n Artikel oor navorsing wat 'n span wetenskaplikes aan ons universiteit in diep myne in Suid-Afrika gedoen het, gooi teorieë dat lewe in ekstreme omstandighede kan voorkom, omver. Navorsers in België en die VSA was deel van die span. Die UV-span het onder leiding van prof. Esta van Heerden van ons Departement Mikrobiologie gestaan.

Die artikel, getiteld *Nematoda from the terrestrial deep subsurface of South Africa*, is in Junie in die hoogaangeskrewe akademiese joernaal *Nature* gepubliseer word.

Die navorsing kan nuwe lig werp oor die moontlikheid dat lewe op ander planete onder uiterste omstandighede aangetref kan word. Dit is tot dusver as onmoontlik beskou. Die navorsing open ook nuwe navorsingsvelde vir die ontdekking van nuwe organismes.

Nematodes wat ondergronds lewe (rondewurms, wat nie met erdwurms verwar moet word nie) is klein (0,5 tot 1 mm), taai ongewerweld diere wat onder uiterste omstandighede kan oorleef. Naas insekte is hulle die mees dominante veelsellige (metasoiëse) spesie op aarde en van die oudste metasoiëse op die planeet, sê *Nature* in 'n verklaring oor die artikel.

Hulle word aangetref in byna elke habitat denkbaar, van die diepsee tot die suur in bekerplante.

Sommige van hierdie organismes lewe as parasiete deur op diere of plante te teer, terwyl ander op bakterieë voed. Laasgenoemde word in die artikel bespreek. Aardse nematodes het die vermoë ontwikkel om in 'n “oorlewingsfase” in te gaan. Wanneer hulle in hierdie fase is, kan hulle moeilike omstandighede, soos tekort aan voedsel, uiterste temperature, te min suurstof en inperking, makliker oorleef.

Die navorsingshoof was prof. Gaetan Borgonie van die Universiteit van Gent in België, 'n wêreldleier op die gebied van navorsing oor nematodes. Hy is voorgestel aan die Suid-Afrikaanse navorsingsleier, prof. Esta van Heerden. Sy het vervolgens 'n samewerkingsooreenkoms met die Universiteit van Gent en prof. Borgonie aangegaan. Prof. van Heerden het die Ekstreme Biochemie-groep aan ons universiteit bestuur en die navorsing was deur haar navorsingstoekennings gefinansier.

Die soektog na die wurms het in alle erns in 2007 begin, maar 'n massiewe steekproefnemingsveldtog in verskeie myne in 2008-2009 het gelei tot die ontdekking van 'n aantal nematodes en 'n nuwe spesie, naamlik *Halicephalobus Mephisto*. Die naam van die spesie is verkry uit die legende van Faus, waarin die duivel, oftewel die heerser van die Onderwêreld, bekend staan as Mefistofeles.

Navorsing het gewys dat die nematodes in die dieptes vir tot 12 000 jaar kan oorleef.

Die belangrikheid van veelsellige diere wat in die dieptes woon, is tweevoudig: die nematodes voed op die bestaande bakteriële bevolking en beïnvloed sodoende hul aantel; en as hierdie organismes in die diep onderlae van die aarde kan oorleef, kan daar dalk aanduidings van lewe op planete in ons hemelruim wees. – Leatitia Pienaar

Prof. Esta van Heerden.

Sparkie



DIE SKULDIGE IS DUS ...

Met die onlangse SciFest Afrika-uitstalling in Grahamstad het wetenskap vir die vyftiende agtereenvolgende jaar in 'n lewendige ervaring verander vir 'n ieder en elk wat dié geleentheid bygewoon het. Die bemarkers van ons Fakulteit Ekonomiese en Bestuurswetenskappe was ook daar om hul bydrae te lewer tot bewusmaking rondom wetenskap.

Die Kovsiestalletjie, met hul tema, "Misdaadtoneel, moenie oorsteek nie", het baie goed gevaar tydens die beoordeling – uit die rekordgetal van 54 uitstallers het ons span tweede geëindig, met die SA Weerburo in die eerste plek.

Elfrieda Lotter, Bemarkingsbestuurder van ons Fakulteit Natuur- en Landbouwetenskappe, verduidelik: "Ons het 'n misdaadtoneel geskep met 'n moord wat gepleeg is en dialoog wat deur elk van die ses rolspelers gepraat word, waarvan twee vir die moord verantwoordelik was. Die leerders wat ons aanbiedings bygewoon het, moes dié moordenaars identifiseer met die bewyse wat ons vir hulle laat sien/hoor het."

"Sonder die hulp, ondersteuning en bydraes van die Departemente Botaniese, Chemie, Fisika, Dierkunde & Entomologie, Geologie, Genetika, Grondwaterstudies, Mikrobiologie, asook Rekenaarwetenskap en Informatika, sou die toekenning nie moontlik gewees het nie," sê Elfrieda. – Leonie Bolleurs



Marike du Plessis van ons Departement Geologie het ook onder meer ons Fakulteit Natuur- en Landbouwetenskappe se stalletjie beman.

bultjie

Promoveer met George Clooney?

Bultjie sit nou die dag by 'n herkurrikuleringsvergadering en staan verstom hoe alles wat verby is weer in 'n sirkelgang terugkom. Soos in Afrika-filosofie! Langer jaarmodules, soos die ou jaarvakke, word weer voorgestel. Ook predikate van 40% vir eksamintoelating en promoveringsvlakke van 70% is soos in die sewentiger- en tagtigerjare op die tafel. Ja! Hoe meer dinge verander, hoe meer bly alles dieselfde. Nie dat ek omgee nie! Minder administrasie en groter dieptegang in studies kan só verkry word. Ons studente se konsentrasiespan is in elk geval so kort soos 'n TV-advertensie of 'n SMS.

Waar is die verbeeldingryke en geïntegreerde kennis wat soveel eise aan die verbeelding stel, soos die onderstaande opstel van 'n student met die titel: *Famous people that influenced a nation*. Bultjie steel maar vrylik en hou by die hoofmomente in die interessante en tydlose saga! Hier gaan ons!

"Many people throughout history have influenced the nation through literature, music, art and media and have left a lasting impression on the people they impressed. George Clooney is one of these individuals and his story is worthy of elaboration.

George Clooney was born in 1692 when Columbus sailed the ocean blue. His mother and father were both on the Mayflower heading East. His father was native to Spain while his mother, however, was native

to Spain. When Georgie was born, they knew he was destined for greatness, because his hair shone like the golden sun and he had the eye of a tiger. He was also really, really tall. When he came to America, he said: "I claim this land," and it was so. He and his family grew up as royalty in a cottage in Jamestown, Illinois. Everybody in the village worshipped them because they were royalty.

By the age of four, Georgie was ninety stories tall and could spell the word *psedo-anti-distabishmentarianism*. This was pretty cool, because I can't spell that. In his spare time, George Clooney liked to record hit country-rap singles and go on walks around town with his big blue cow, Oprah Winfrey. But Oprah got a talk show and started to become really big, so they grew apart.

George Clooney's reign as *King of Movies* began one quiet summer afternoon. He had just gotten back from the county bathhouse after singing the *Declaration of Independence* and the *Magna Carta*. Needless to say, he was as tired as a dog and went to bed for a little catnap. While he was sleeping, Paul Revere jumped off his horse and shouted through the window: "Hey Georgie! We're finally pulling out of Iraq! Are you up for some billiards?" George Clooney replied: "Anything for you, Paul Revere!" What the world does not know, is that Paul Revere was a member of Hitler's Raging Gay Party, while Georgie was just an ordinary homosexual royal Spaniard. Because of their differences, Revere invited Clooney to settle their differences. What happen during the billiard game remains a secret to the outside world, but apparently Clooney severely killed

Revere and he had to go to the Betty Ford Institution with Paris Hilton. By that time he could not drink from the Golden Globe, which he would win for his performance in the movie *Batman and Robin*. It is not clear if he won an Academy Award for his quick recovery with Paris Hilton in the institution or for his later movie, *Confessions of a Dangerous Mind*.

George Clooney gave up drinking and once again out on the streets he got involved in the Darfur Conflict and he raised funds for the 2010 Haiti earthquake and the 2001 Tsunami. What his role was is not generally well known, but rumour has it that he became an enemy of Steve Demetre Georgiou, the son of the Greek Cypriot whose mother was Swedish. For some reason, Steve went to a Roman Catholic school and changed his name to Cat Stevens and sang *I like to ride my bicycle*. He changed his name to Yusuf Islam after that. When he met George Clooney during Operation Desert Storm, where Clooney was shooting something, Yusuf sang *I love my dog* to Georgie. Since then, they live like cats and dogs.

This all shows that George Clooney perpetuated ideas of perseverance and peace throughout his life and his contributions will surely never be forgotten.

Nou sê julle nou vir my! Gaan die student sy predie van 40% haal, of moet hy promoveer met 70% vir verbeeldingryke en kreatiewe omgang met geïntegreerde akademiese kennis oor drie jaarstudie? Op watter tak van Bloom se taksonomie sit dié perdt?

Groete van tak tot tak!

Bultjie