

dumela

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Research on sense of belonging provides opportunity to access campus climate

By Lacea Loader

A project to assess the sense of belonging of members of our university community was conducted in November/December 2011 by the office of Prof. Driekie Hay, Vice-Rector: Academic. "One of the main objectives with the research was to develop an understanding of what sense of belonging means to the diverse staff and students of the university in the context of a transforming and transitional society and university. It also gave us the opportunity to assess the overall campus climate," said Prof. Hay.

Other objectives included the identification of the factors influencing a sense of belonging for staff and students and to propose specific key interventions in the short, medium and long term that are most likely to enhance a sense of belonging at the university for staff and students.

"With the survey we aimed to measure the current levels of staff and student sense of belonging and explore possible determinants of sense of belonging for staff and students in order to identify the determinants that have the greatest influence on sense of belonging. We also wanted to explore differences in the levels of sense of belonging across different groups of staff and students and explore differences in determinants of sense of belonging for different groups of staff and students," she said.

For the purpose of the study the following definition of sense of belonging was adapted: when members of the university community feel personally accepted, respected, included, supported and valued in the university's academic, social and physical environments.

Three perception surveys were conducted: with staff, undergraduate students and postgraduate students. Although

the participation of staff and postgraduate students was fairly average, the number of undergraduate students that took part was good.

Some of the findings of the research have shown that staff generally have an acceptable overall level of sense of belonging and it is the highest at the departmental level. Collegiality and good working relations have a very positive impact on sense of belonging and, for academic staff, interaction with students also positively impacts on this.

Another outcome is the positive sense of pride our postgraduate students feel towards the university with more or less three-quarters of respondents indicating that they would choose the university again and that they would recommend it to others.

Undergraduate students had a fairly positive perception of campus climate and were most positive about the attitude of their lecturers in promoting a climate of mutual respect. The students with the strongest sense of belonging, acceptance and pride were those from the South Campus.

No in-depth studies of sense of belonging of university staff at South African universities have been undertaken and therefore there is no benchmark against which to measure the results obtained in the survey. "It is, however, a valuable way of establishing the campus climate and to determine where interventions should be made," said Prof. Hay.

The survey was well received by the University Management as well as Council during its quarterly meeting on 14 September 2012. "In order to keep track of the perceptions of staff and students and to stay informed, an annual campus climate survey is envisaged," she said. The survey will be available on the Intranet once feedback is received from line managers.



Van die redakteur

Weereens het ons 'n vol kwartaal hier by die universiteit beleef, studente sowel as personeel. Hierdie uitgawe is dan ook gepak met die meeste van die gebeure; van die Student Leadership Summit tot die bespreking oor die kontroversiële kunswerk, The Spear.

Ander groot gebeure wat ons kampusgemeenskap iets gegee het om oor na te dink, sluit in 'n besoek van die President van Suid-Afrika, mnr. Jacob Zuma tydens die Charlotte Maxeke-gedenklesing, sowel as die politieke ekonoom, Moeletsi Mbeki. Op 'n ligter noot: Brümilda van Rensburg, bekende televisiester en verhoogpersoonlikheid, het ook 'n draai kom maak tydens Personeelwelstand se Vroue-ontbyt waar sy 'n hele paar dames gekry het om saam te jive op die maat van Nkalakatha van

Mandoza. Lees meer hieroor en sien ook die foto's in ons middelblad.

Vir ons studente was dit ook 'n besige kwartaal gekenmerk deur kleinsêr wat gevolg is deur die Nasionale Sêr, wat soos een van die aanbieders gesê het: "Huis toe gekom het," nadat dit op ons Bloemfontein-kampus aangebied is. 'n Verdere hoogtepunt was die verkiesing van ons twee nuwe SR-presidente, William Clayton vir die Bloemfontein-kampus en Sabelo Khumalo vir ons Qwaqwa-kampus.

Tussendeur alles het ons academici sowel as ons student die Kovsie-naam hoog gehou met verskeie prestasies. Lees van prof. Driekie Hay wat as lid van ASSAf verkies is. Dan is ons ook verder trots op een van ons studente, Gabi Hlumbane, wat Suid-Afrika as een van die Banyana, Banyana-spelers by die Olimpiese Spele verteenwoordig het. Oud-Kovsie, Wiaan Viljoen, het ook 'n draai by die Olimpiese Spele gaan maak as deel van die SA-pluimbalspan.

Dit is ook nie net in sport wat ons studente uitblink het nie. Sibusiso Tshabalala vertel ons op bl. 18 hoe hy skouers geskuur het met persoonlikhede soos Bill Clinton, Annie Lennox en die Google HUB Larry Page toe hy die Google Zeitgeist-konferensie vroeër die kwartaal bygewoon het.

Lede van ons universiteitgemeenskap het dus nie net die kans aangegryp om deur verskeie persoonlikhede geïnspireer te word nie, ons het self ook geïnspireer. Lees gerus die artikel oor ons Fakulteit Gesondheidswetenskappe se bydrae tydens hulle 67 minute ter viering van Nelson Mandela-dag.

En as jy voel alles is 'n gejaag. "Pause", haal asem en lag. Dit is Igno van Niekerk se raad in sy artikel, "Coping with today". Het beslis vir my gewerk!

Tot volgende keer.

Leonie



This month on Facebook ...

By Duard Grobbelaar

Who is your favourite lecturer? Why?

Prof Lazenby of OBS314, because he instils in us the willingness to learn, reminds us why we are here and makes us believe that we can truly pass and pass high, but encourages and motivates us lecture after lecture. He is the best 'cos he believes in the student. **Katlego P Leroala**

Dr. Johan Coetzee ... That sir knows what his doing and is a pure definition of what a lecturer should be. If you can explain a concept that even a five-year-old can understand I believe there is something you've mastered and are doing 100% right. He's a man who really makes a difference; well, he has in my life (for those who might disagree). **Nombuso Ndlovu**

Dr. AJ Stemmet at the Department of History; he is a really good history lecturer, he makes history fun and easy for everyone to understand and as student, I can see my history background and history points improving!:) **Liandri Kennedy**

Mine is Dr Mulder (BK0224 and BK0344). She really taught us material for the industry and not just curricula work, she prepared us for the real world! **Cuma L Mvubu**

Mr Calitz, KRM lecturer, Bloemfontein Campus. He is legend. Never a dull moment in his lectures and his dry jokes are a killa!!! He knows his work and is always prepared for his lectures. **Mapitso Sebothoma**

Lize Barclay from the Dept of Urban and Regional Planning. She's a progressive thinker, she's innovative and creative. Her approach to teaching is practical and more centered around the student. As a result, it's very difficult to forget her work. **Mxolisi Mchunu**

Prof. Lazenby rates an A for Awesome! **Darryn Angel January**

Mr Gustav Smit (Department of Physics). He can even teach Physics to a rock!! **John Shasta Makoatsane**

Qwaqwa Campus Extravaganza

Zahara was rocking @ UFS Qwaqwa Campus. Monatel!!! **Lehlohonolo Victor Mofokeng**

An event beyond compare!! **Motlogelwa Moema**

What's your favourite spot on campus?

I call it the Secret Garden ... even though it's illegal to sit there. It's where the plant sciences students grow a lot of plants, but it's a private, secret spot with a big, shady tree. Occasionally the entrance will be unlocked and I love to sneak in and sit there :) **Nicole Leigh Heyns**

Quiet corner in the library. Under the trees in front of West Block. **Erika Théron**

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“I don't like to be confined by limitations,” says Karabo

By Teboho Setena

Karabo Motlhakoana is living proof that physically challenged people are able to thrive despite adversity and can determine their own destiny. Although born without arms, he is not deprived of possibilities.

The 20-year-old Karabo studies towards a degree in Information Technology Geographical Systems at the university. This year is his second year. He completed Grade 12 at the Martie Du Plessis School in Bloemfontein – a school catering for learners with conditions like his. Generally many able-bodied people would doubt his abilities and think he struggles to cope with his studies. However, he possesses the qualities and abilities to succeed. Getting a distinction in Geography this term is testimony to this.

“Studying technology fascinates me very much; yet I was only exposed to it in my first year at university. Technology was not part of our learning programme at school,” says Karabo.

He cites the will to succeed in all his

endeavours as the driving force in his studies. “To study at university is the best time of my life. I enjoy everything about my studies because it equips me with the knowledge required to live my dream. The course comprehends my true nature of being out and about, and liking to explore. I don't like to be confined by limitations or space,” says Karabo.

A first-born from a family of three siblings raised by a single parent, he has distinguished himself even learning to drive a vehicle.

“What I do is all by the power of God. I feel very independent and I cannot rely on other persons for progress. Being given extra time when writing exams is the only favour I need to succeed in my studies. I believe I'm capable to achieve what to some appears impossible,” says Karabo.

Karabo was selected to take part in the Leadership for Change Programme last year. He was part of the group that visited the University of Washington in Seattle in the USA.

Karabo Motlhakoana.

Photo: Anja Aucamp

**MY
VIEW**

My ma sê ôk so

Deur René-Jean van der Berg

Ek kon nie help om te hartseer te word toe ek lees van die ouma van oor die 90 nie. Die ding wat haar oorgekom het. En dit nogal haar eie agterkleinkind wat nou die dag net op parool vrygelaat is.

Die ding se naam is vir my te lelik om dit te wil skryf. Want hoe vat jy so 'n daad, en al die hartseer wat daarmee gepaardgaan, in een woord vas?

Verkrag.

Ons hoor die woord daagliks, ons sien die statistiek.

Totdat ek universiteit toe is, het ons 'n huishulp gehad.

“Mrs Swartz,” het my ma haar respektvol genoem. Sy het my ma “Juffrou” genoem. Vir ons kinders was sy “Aunt Swartz” en ek was haar “Meidjie”.

My ma het dit uit die staanspoor duidelik gemaak dat Aunt Swartz nie vir ons werk nie. Sy kom help slegs my ma een keer 'n week met die wasgoed. In ruil vir haar hulp, kry sy 'n maandelikse loon.

Maar een week het Aunt Swartz nie kom uithelp nie. Sy was ook nie die daaropvolgende Sondag in die kerk nie (ons was by dieselfde gemeente) en

direk na die diens is my ma na Aunt Swartz se huis, want iets was beslis fout.

My ma het eers laat daai Sondag teruggekom, want sy was saam met Aunt Swartz polisie toe.

“Dit is nie jou besigheid nie,” het my ma geantwoord toe ek uitva. Daarna het my ouers weekliks by Aunt Swartz aangedoen.

So tussendeur my afluistery kon ek wel hier en daar iets uitmaak.

“Om te dink dis haar seun se vriende wat elke dag in die huis kom.”

Die hofsak het gekom en gegaan. Aunt Swartz het weer kom help met die wasgoed en vergete was die ding wat Aunt Swartz oorgekom het.

Die dag met my hoërskool skool se “40 days” kon Aunt Swartz nie op my hemp 'n boodskap skryf nie, maar haar boodskap was vir ewig by my ingeëts:

“My Meidjie, loop leer mooi. Miskien kan jy eendag skryf van die goeters wat die vrouens so oorkom.”

René-Jean van der Berg is Senior Beampte: Mediaskakeling by ons Afdeling Strategiese Kommunikasie.



René-Jean van der Berg.

Dr. Gideon **bou brûe**

oor alle grense

Deur Stefan Lotter

Foto: Anja Aucamp



Dr. Gideon van der Watt.

“

Ek het nog altyd 'n roeping gehad om mense vanuit verskillende kontekste bymekaar te bring. Dit was moeilik gewees in daai jare, maar dit is die kerk se roeping en nog niks het verander nie.”

Koppie koffie met...



As 'n predikant in sinodale diens in opdrag vir getuieis en vennootskap vereis dr. Gideon van der Watt se werk by die Sinodale Sentrum van die NG Kerk in die Vrystaat tans dat hy oor die landsgrense heen vennootskappe in die kerk verseker.

Of dit nou onder plaaslike gemeentes, met sustergemeentes in Suid-Afrika se buurlande, gemeentes in ander Afrikalande, of selfs met 'n gemeente in Japan is, sy hart borrel al jare lank daaroor.

“Ek is al oor die 30 jaar by die kerk betrokke,” sê hy met passie in sy oë. “Ek het nog altyd oor grense gewerk en nooit net by een gemeente nie. Om die kultuur, taal en geografiese grense tussen gemeentes te verminder en so die liggaam te verenig was nog altyd in my hart.”

Dr. Gideon se hart om verhoudings en vennootskappe oor grense heen te bou is reeds destyds as 'n student aan ons universiteit gekweek,

al was dit in daardie tyd moeilik as gevolg van die Apartheidsjare.

“Ek het nog altyd 'n roeping gehad om mense vanuit verskillende kontekste bymekaar te bring. Dit was moeilik gewees in daai jare, maar dit is die kerk se roeping en nog niks het verander nie.”

Dr. Gideon was al voorheen in 'n volttydse hoedanigheid by ons universiteit betrokke as lektor, maar vir nou is hy net hier as navorsingsgenoot in die Departement Sendingswetenskappe en slegs so elke nou en dan is hy in die klas te sien.

“Ek hou baie van navorsing en doen self in die veld van sendingwetenskap en sendingsgeskiedenis baie van my eie navorsing.”

Verder is hy ook deelyds betrokke by die Christelike Lektuurfonds waar hulle besig is met die ontwikkeling van nuwe kategesemateriaal.

“Ons werk aan 'n hele reeks nuwe materiaal met die oog op Afrikatale, van gesangboeke en jeugboeke, tot boeke oor leierskap en roeping. En die belangrikste van alles is dat dit in 'n hele klomp tale sal wees.”

From humble beginnings to High Court

By Stefan Lotter

“My fondest memory at the university was when I became a lecturer for Introduction to Legal Studies.”

Judge Mahube Molemela is so much more than a simple law practitioner.

In fact, she is inspiring, living a balanced lifestyle as judge at the High Court in Bloemfontein, a mother, outdoor lover and alumnus of our Faculty of Law.

Although not currently involved in any formal programme at our university, the university still occupies a very special place in her heart.

“My fondest memory at the university was when I became a lecturer for Introduction to Legal Studies,” says the judge.

“This course was for first-year students and the class was rather big. On the first day of the lecture I provided students with my cellular phone number so that they could contact me whenever they needed help with the course. Some of the messages I received on the phone had absolutely nothing to do with the course and were truly amusing! I must say, I really enjoyed my interaction with the students back then and there was never a dull moment. Some of my old students are lawyers today and have even appeared before me as legal representatives. I suppose this

entitles me to say that I have made some meaningful contributions to society.”

Now in the honourable position of High Court judge, she explains that nothing came easy at first. While her first love in matters legal was to practise as an attorney, for a period of a year after graduation she was jobless, having unsuccessfully applied for articles of clerkship at various law firms in Bloemfontein.

“If you ask me whether, as a law student, I ever aspired to be a judge, my answer would be a firm ‘no’.

“None of this would have been possible, had I not met certain influential people throughout my life.

“The lesson I learnt from my own journey of life is that indeed, in a race, what matters most is not how fast you get off the starting blocks, but how well you finish it. Expressed differently, never let your shaky start determine your finish.”

She believes in not placing too much focus on one specific facet of life at the expense of the other. Time with family or spent on travelling and hiking gives the necessary balance this judge needs in her life.

“As a family, we really enjoy the outdoors. We often go on hiking excursions, despite my phobia for snakes,” she says.

Judge Mahube Molemela.



Photo: Anja Aucamp

She juggles it all with a smile

By Thabo Motsoane

She has managed to manoeuvre her way up the academic pyramid and persistently shows rich ability in her occupation, both academically and professionally. Her ability to prosper seemingly vanquishes her physical disability and her intellectual gift easily overcomes her bodily challenges.

Meet Dr Priscilla Mensah, Assistant Director of International Academic Programmes in the Rector's Office.

Learning about her day-to-day job description and her educational background leaves one dazzled, as the two would seem poles apart. “I studied Chemistry and did my Ph.D. research in paediatric vaccine development and now I am an Assistant Director in International Academic Programmes,” she says.

However, she describes her present-day job as “thoroughly enjoyable”. “The job that I do here is coupled with many responsibilities. We run local

and international projects and the popular one is the Leadership for Change Programmes, which I enjoy very much.”

But then again she maintains that staying on track is no easy task. She tells us that prioritising what needs to get done and developing good relationships with other people are what help her to remain organised.

When I asked how she managed to stay motivated she quoted advice from her father who once said to her, “In any situation you should do your best”.

However, working with Prof. Aldo Stroebe also motivates her because “he is highly driven and very hard-working”, as she puts it. “So, when you surround yourself with people who work hard, it motivates you to also follow in their footsteps.”

It is clear that her passion to succeed is what has kept her going. Although she is physically disabled, willingness to act is indeed what separates ability from disability.



Photo: Anja Aucamp

Dr Priscilla Mensah.

Roelf Pringle: Tegnikus met Zen-gedagtes

Deur Amanda Tongha

Ons Onderrigmediadienste-afdeling (Teaching Media Services) wat deel uitmaak van Fisiese Hulpbronne, is 'n afdeling waarmee die meeste mense te doene kry vir hul werk by die universiteit of om klas te gee. As jy hulp nodig het met klank of beeld, is dit die afdeling om te kontak en die moontlikheid is groot dat die persoon wat jou gaan help Roelf Pringle is.

Roelf is een van twee opgeleide audiovisuele tegnikusse in dié afdeling en word menige keer na 'n lokaal geroep om te help met die opstel van 'n projektor of om na klanktoerusting te kyk.

Dié tegnikus, wat homself 'n *Jack of all trades* noem, sê hy help met enigiets, selfs die take wat nie deel uitmaak van sy posbeskrywing nie. Take waarmee hy nou en dan help en wat nie deel is van sy pos is nie, is die oplaai van sagteware.

Saam met Corné Stapelberg, die ander opgeleide tegnikus in sy afdeling, en drie assistente, voorsien die Onderrigmediadienste-afdeling in al drie kampusse se audiovisuele behoeftes. Meer as 300 lokale op die Bloemfontein-, Suid- en Qwaqwa-kampusse, asook

die Universitas- en Nasionale-hospitale is toegerus met audiovisuele toerusting waarvoor dié afdeling verantwoordelik is.

Roelf, wat vir 'n elektriese ingenieur gestudeer het, sê hy hou daarvan om dinge uitmekaar te haal en dan weer aanmekaar te sit. "Gee my 'n simpel ding soos om 'n kabel oop te maak en ek kry 'n Zen-oomblik." Die liefde om dinge uitmekaar te haal kom van kleins af. "As kind het ek speelgoed uitmekaar gehaal. Ek wil weet hoe alles werk."

Daar is wel iets wat hy nog nie baasgeraak het nie, en dié is sy motor. "Ek is een van die min mans wat nie sy motor kan diens nie."

Tipes tegnikus is hy mal oor nuwe speelgoed. "Ek hou van tegniese apparaat. Geen tegnikus is lief vir papierwerk nie," vertel hy oor die deel van sy werk waar hy fakture uitmaak, bates bestuur en aankope opvolg. "Dis een van die goed wat ons die meeste haat."

Roelf, werk alreeds agt jaar by die universiteit en het onlangs vir die eerste keer pa geword. Sy vrou Lianda is 'n onderwyser by die Hoërskool Dr. Blok in Heidedal.

Roelf Pringle.

Qwaqwa Campus boasts new entrance

By the end of this year, motorists passing our Qwaqwa Campus will have to look twice, as plans have been drawn up for a brand-new entrance to this campus in the picturesque Eastern Free State.

The project to the value of R5 million will start in October this year.

According to Nico Janse van Rensburg from Physical Planning, this project will look like a combination of the taxi terminal building and the Main Gate on the Bloemfontein Campus, complete with a waiting area for commuter students and a gate with entrance control.

Luscious gardens are planned to make the entrance even more beautiful.

– Leonie Bolleurs



Coping with today!

By Igno van Niekerk

Photo: Igno van Niekerk

What an absolutely mad rush! We live in an era where speed has become an integral part of our lives; from faster cars to faster emails, from broadband to broader-band. Like the movie *Speed*, it is no wonder that we often feel that we are a breathless, break-less and brake-less – rushing past our own lives to our destinies which seem to elude us as we see yesterdays adding up and tomorrows flying by like markers on a racetrack to nowhere. Like the previous sentence, we often feel as if we are sentenced to a never-ending, pointless (or should that be fullstopless) rush.

Pause! Breathe!

So often the barrage of requirements form the outside leads to our inside world becoming hurried, stressed and dangerous as we frantically try to get everything done.

So what do we do to maintain our health as well as our sanity? As knowledge workers, we owe it to ourselves to have a strategy to thrive rather than merely to cope.

The first thing is to slow the inside world down. Get your mind clear. You can do a mind dump, which means writing down all the things you still need to do. Just getting it on paper is already a great relief. You see, then you can concretely see what you need to address. This may range from work stuff to personal stuff; it can be things you need to do today or dream about doing 10 years from now. Just give your mind a break! This whole concept is discussed in David Allen's brilliant book, *Getting Things Done*.

After a mind dump, one can put all the things you want to/need to/have to do into perspective. Turn them into actionable steps and make sure they are diarised as edible chunks (do-able bits) rather than choking gulps (undo-able tasks). You eat an elephant bite by bite, don't you?

But wait, there's more ...

Play again. So often we work so hard in order to have fun eventually that we never have fun. Fun lies in a playful attitude, in the appreciation of beauty, in good-natured laughter. When last did you release your inner child? It takes five minutes, but it can get rid of five months' worth of stress. Every day we rush to work, grinding our teeth in traffic, trying to beat others in a senseless race against time. Stop it! Smile in traffic, put on great music for the road, have positive thoughts about the approaching day – laugh at the speedsters. Make the most of the trips to and from work as well as the workplace itself.

The university campus is a wonderful place to work. The beautiful gardens with birdsong in the trees, as well as the calming fountains of water all contribute to our inner sense of calm and gratitude. When last did you notice the beauty surrounding you? Do yourself a favour, open your heart and mind to the beauty that's around you every day. Take a break for 10 minutes. Walk on the campus. Converse with a stranger.

Pause. Breathe. Laugh!

You'll be astounded at the difference it makes.



From bridging course to Dux student

By Alzane Narrain

"I believe the purpose of my life lies beyond being an actuary."

Inspiring many around her – Tumelo Moreri.

Tumelo Moreri started her career at our university as a student on the Career Preparation Programme (CPP), but has achieved more than most mainstream students. With a grade average of 80% this hard worker was named one of three Dux students for the Bloemfontein Campus this year.

Tumelo, a Botswana national, did not start with first-year studies straight after matric. Botswana's matriculation exemption is not the same as that of South Africa and Tumelo had to complete a one-year course at our South Campus to bring it in line with the South African school-level qualification. On the South Campus she did courses in mathematics and chemistry.

In 2010 she started her first year at our Bloemfontein Campus, enrolling for her B.Sc. degree in Actuarial Science. From there onwards it was straight sailing for this hard-working student, who consistently achieved and was invited to become a member of the Golden Key Honour Society in 2011.

Tumelo, who grew up in a single-parent home, says she believes education is the key to breaking the poverty chain. "The one thing that drives me is to see myself leading a life better than what I was provided with while growing up. I appreciate all that was done for me, and I believe the intention of my mum's sleepless nights was so I could have a better life than she had."

South Africa feels just like home, she says. "Botswana is not that different to South Africa. It is only more developed."

Another honour has been bestowed upon her this year when she was inaugurated as a SRC member on our Bloemfontein Campus.

Determined to achieve more in life, this third-year student says the end of her journey will not be as an actuary. "I believe the purpose of my life lies beyond being an actuary."

"Education remains the only saviour to people hungry for self-respect and the ability to dream."



Photo: Alzane Narrain

David Johannes



Prof. André Wessels



Lourens Geyer



Jareer Bakharia



Janie van der Merwe



Dr Josefa Mohatlane



Inspiring intellectual development through social cohesion

The university hosted a burning line-up of seminars in this quarter, with guest speakers including the President of the Republic of South Africa, Jacob Zuma, prominent investigative journalist Max du Preez and well-known political analyst Moeletsi Mbeki, to name but a few. **Thabo Motsoane** visited some of the staff and students to find out whether they attended the seminars and what they had learnt from these lectures.

David Johannes, School of Nursing: "Yes, I did attend the lectures because they offer one news on current issues and challenge one also to conduct further research on the topics addressed so that one can find solutions to the problems identified. The lectures are very informational and they enlighten a person."

Prof. André Wessels, Department of History: "Yes, I try to attend as many as I can, because it is important to get speakers across various disciplines to speak about various topics to stimulate debate. In doing this, we get knowledge and exposure to other important things. Lectures give you the opportunity to learn about the issues of the day and challenges faced by the world."

Lourens Geyer, Human Resources: "Yes, I do attend lectures to remain involved in university activities. If you are a student of a university, you are a lifelong student; whether you are 20 years or 70 years old, you must grasp the opportunity to learn. What you learn every time is to affirm your ideas on issues of culture or education. If not affirming it, at least start thinking about solutions to issues."

Jareer Bakharia, student: "Yes, I did attend a lecture because I wanted to interact with other people so as to educate myself and uplift my leadership skills."

Janie van der Merwe, Communication Science honours student: "Yes, I attend some of them, for example, the one about the American presidential elections. I attended that lecture because I needed information regarding my assignment and I learnt how political systems differ from country to country."

Dr Josefa Mohatlane, Department of African Languages (Sesotho): "Yes, I do attend, because as an academic, you get the opportunity to brighten the horizon of your knowledge. Seminars motivate you to enhance your research objectives and sharpen your method of teaching as an academic and they deal with important current affairs so that you can know what is happening within your immediate surroundings. I would encourage people to attend these seminars; people should see them as an opportunity to learn."

Eight from university elected to ASSAf

Eight of our academics have been elected as members of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf). They follow in the footsteps of seven colleagues who had already been elected as members of the Academy.

The new members are Prof. Driekie Hay, Vice-Rector: Academic; Prof. Melanie Walker, Senior Professor; Prof. Ian Phimister, Senior Professor; Prof. Pumla Godobo-Madikizela, Senior Professor; Prof. Lodewyk Kock, Outstanding Professor; Prof. Hugh Patterson, Department of Microbial, Biochemical and Food Biotechnology; Prof. Heidi Hudson, Centre for Africa Studies, and Prof. Odireleng Ntwaeaborwa, Department of Physics.

ASSAf was established in 1996 with the mission of using science to the benefit of society. New members are elected after nomination by four existing members (at least two of whom do so from personal knowledge of the candidate). – **Leatitia Pienaar**

Commercio vereer fakulteit se beste dosente

In wat seker 'n eerste vir die universiteit is, het Commercio, die verteenwoordigende studenteliggaaam in die Fakulteit Ekonomiese en Bestuurswetenskappe, die beste dosente in die fakulteit op 'n glansonthaal vereer. Gewoonlik is die bordjies omgedraai en word die beste studente deur die dosente vereer.

Al die studente in die fakulteit het aan die opname deelgeneem en meer as 2 000 stemme moes aan die einde daarvan getel word. Die verwerking van die data was so omvangryk dat die hulp van Wiskundige Statistiek ingeroep moes word!

Die resultaat was 'n getroue weergawe van die studente se menings.

Elkeen van die weners is met trofee huis toe. Die beste dosente in die kursusse is:

Karen Booysen (Afrikaans) en dr. Nthabeleng Rammile (Engels) in Ondernemingsbestuur; Christoffel Hendriks (Afrikaans) en prof. Moses Sindane (Engels) in Openbare Administrasie en Bestuur; Antonie Pool (Afrikaans) en Servias Guvuriro (Engels) in Ekonomie; Ronel Kleynhans (Afrikaans) en Lyle Markham (Engels) in Bedryfsielkunde; Hanli Joubert (Afrikaans) en Ronell Britz (Engels) in die Sentrum vir Rekeningkunde. – **Leatitia Pienaar**

Kovsie FM increases listenership

Have you ever wondered who listens to KovsieFM? Well, the answer is 60 000 people. This was according to listener results that were announced two weeks ago. Just one month ago the KovsieFM listenership was estimated at 49 000.

This makes KovsieFM the third-biggest campus radio station in South Africa.

"This is the highest listenership the radio station has ever had in its 30 years of existence," says Gerben van Niekerk, Head of Student Media at the Bloemfontein Campus.

"We are proud," says Tyson Molemela, Programming Manager at KovsieFM. "This increased listenership can be attributed to increased communication with the listeners, the change of music policy, and a more dedicated management team."

According to him, what sets KovsieFM apart from other radio stations is the fact that they have clearly identified their target audience and can cater according to them. They are also more involved with listeners and he feels the listeners tune in every time, because the shows are relevant to what is happening in their lives. – **Callie Hendricks**

Kovsie-studente deel van eksklusiewe Stanford Sophomore College-program

Die ses studente, Elri Marais, Palesa Mafisa, Goodwill Shelile, Foster Lubbe, Gabriella Schroder en Saheed Abdullah, is deel van die Stanford Sophomore College-program, 'n residensiële somerprogram vir tweedejaarstudente. Hulle is sedert die begin van September saam met medestudente en professore by Stanford betrokke by die intense akademiese bestudering van 'n verskeidenheid innoverende, multidisiplinêre onderwerpe.

Foster Lubbe skryf dat sy ervaring in San Francisco tot dusver wonderlik was. "Die klasse is baie interaktief. Dit is ongelooflik om te sien hoe effektief studente en dosente tydens klasse van tegnologiese hulpmiddels, veral die vinnige internet, gebruik maak," skryf hy.

Foster en Palesa is besig met 'n kursus oor "Gemengde Ras in die Nuwe Millennium", Elri en Abdullah met, "Die betekenis van die Lewe," en Gabriella en Goodwill is besig met 'n kursus oor "Spookstories." Hoogtepunte vir die studente was 'n gesprek met die New York Times-joernalis, Susan Saulny, 'n besoek aan die Stanford-sentrum vir Mariene Biologie, en vir Gabriella en Goodwill was dit 'n San Francisco-spooktoer.




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Spread the WORD...

By René-Jean van der Berg

The university has established its position in the hearts and minds of our biggest media organisations with reporters calling on us for our expertise and comment on current issues locally and globally.

- The most publicity gained this past term was in July during our first ever Global Leadership Summit (GLS) when over 200 students and staff from universities of five continents visited the university. On 18 July 2012 the university celebrated former President Nelson Mandela's birthday with a R5 coin-laying ceremony. This event coincided with the GLS. The university was especially honoured by the visit of Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu on this day. He took part in the Dialogue between Science and Society series hosted by Prof. Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela. Events of the day were reported in *Volksblad*, *The Star*, *Bloemfontein Courant*, *The New Age*, *Mercury*, and *Pretoria News*. The day's events were also covered on the SABC radio stations, *Lesedi FM*, *Ukhozi FM*, *SAFM*, *5FM* and *Lotus FM* as well *Cape Talk*, *OFM*, and *e-News*.
- Another big event was the 5th annual Charlotte Maxeke Memorial Lecture which our university hosted. President Jacob Zuma delivered the keynote address at the event, which officially opened the national Women's Month celebrations. The lecture attracted big names like Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Chairperson of the African Union, national Ministers Lulu Xingwana and Angie Motshekga, as well as Free State Premier Ace Magashule. *Public Eye*, *Volksblad*, *e-News*, *City Press*, *Sowetan*, *Daily Sun*, *Lesedi FM*, *Ukhozi FM*, *SAFM*, *OFM* all mentioned the lecture.
- In the run-up to the Olympic Games the South African Men's Hockey team had a training camp at our Bloemfontein Campus. The camp was run by Dr Derick Coetzee, Head of

our High Performance Centre. *Business Day*, *The Citizen*, *Free State Times*, *Volksblad*, *Die Burger*, *The New Age* and *Herald* reported about the conditioning camp.

- Writer Etienne van Heerden received an honorary doctorate in literature at our winter graduation ceremony. *Ons Stad*, *The New Age*, *Volksblad*, *Die Burger* and *Bloemfontein Courant* carried reports about the graduation ceremony.
- A host of acclaimed journalists visited our campus to take part in the Beyond the Spear seminar, discussing lessons South Africans learnt from the controversial Brett Murray painting. Justice Malala, political analyst and host of news show, *The Justice Factor*, Nic Dawes, Editor-in-chief of *Mail & Guardian*, Max du Preez, investigative journalist and political columnist, and Ferial Haffajee, Editor of *City Press*, presented their views and experiences. Ferial wrote a flattering opinion piece about the university in *City Press* after her visit, writing that our Bloemfontein Campus has a "global character and has become a jewel". The seminar made news in *Volksblad*, *Kampus-Volksblad* and *Die Burger*. It made online news on *news24*, *iol.co.za* and *thepost.co.za*.
- One of our lecturers, Dr Olihile Sebolai, and student Sibusiso Tshabalala made it onto the *Mail & Guardian* list of 200 top young South Africans.
- Varsity College launched a partnership with our Faculty of Law to offer a four-year Bachelor of Law qualification through the School of Open Learning. *Mangaung Issue*, *Public Eye*, *Volksblad*, *Ons Stad*, *The New Age* all reported about this exciting agreement.

1. Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu.

2. Dr Olihile Sebolai.

3. Dr Etienne van Heerden.



Fakulteit Gesondheidswetenskappe bederf behoeftige vroue en kinders

Deur René-Jean van der Berg

Sowat 20 vroue trippel en tree rond en pluk-pluk aan hul ontwerpersklere.

Met die smaakvolle grimering en nuwe kapsels is daar weinig van die jarelange swaarkry en armoede op hul gesigte te bespeur.

Eenkant pink 'n bejaarde vrou 'n traan weg – bang om nie haar grimering op te mors nie – en hier en daar bewonder 'n paar hulself stilletjies in 'n handspieëltjie. Oral is daar egter uitroep: "Oe, maar jy's mooi."

Dit is modeparadedag vir die inwoners van die Bloem Shelter-tehuis vir haweloses in Bloemfontein.

Deur al hul moeilike omstandighede het die vroue van die tehuis net een wens gehad: om ook mooi en vroulik te voel en weer selfvertroue te kan hê.

Die is 'n droom wat ons Fakulteit Gesondheidswetenskappe vir die vroue help bewaarheid het. Saam met die Sentrale Universiteit vir Tegnologie, modeontwerpers en modehuise in die stad, kon die vroue met selfvertroue op die verhoog stap en vir 'n kort rukkie van hul lewensomstandighede vergeet.

"Die lewe is nie altyd regverdig nie, maar wat werklik saak maak, is hoe jy jou

omstandighede gebruik om dit te kan verander," het prof. Gert van Zyl, Dekaan van die Fakulteit Gesondheidswetenskappe aan die inwoners van Bloem Shelter gesê.

Die bederfdag vir die vroue en kinders van Bloem Shelter was die projek van die fakulteit se vieringe vir Nelson Mandela-Dag wat hulle op Dinsdag 24 Julie 2012 by die Eeufeeskompleks aangebied het. Almal in die fakulteit se verskeie departemente het hand bygesit om die inwoners se dag spesiaal te maak.

Een van die inwoners is die 18-jarige Priscilla Ncunu*, 'n skrande matriekleerling aan 'n hoërskool in die stad. As 14-jarige is sy wees gelaat en na haar omswerwinge onder dikwels moeilike omstandighede in Johannesburg het sy haar pad hier na Bloem Shelter gevind. Sy hoop om volgende jaar regte aan ons universiteit te kan studeer.

Vir haar matriekafskeid het een van die dag se modeontwerpers, Schalk van Dyk Couture, 'n matriekafskeidrok aan haar geskenk om haar droomdag te kan bewaarheid.

* Skuilname is gebruik om persone se identiteit te beskerm.

Ons Fakulteit Gesondheidswetenskappe het 'n modeparade vir die inwoners van Bloem Shelter gehou. Bo: saam met prof. Gert van Zyl (middel), Dekaan van die fakulteit, is twee van die inwoners wat aan die modedag deelgeneem het. Links is Loana Stellenberg en regs is Priscilla Ncunu. Loana dra 'n uitrusting van Schalk van Dyk Couture en Priscilla een van VICOFS.



Photos: René-Jean van der Berg



Prominent Visitors

honour university with their presence

President Jacob Zuma.

Not only was August known for celebrating women this year; this month also marked the presence of a number of acclaimed guests at our university, including names such as President Jacob Zuma, Max du Preez, Ferial Haffajee, Rev. Frank Chikane and, on a lighter note, Brümilda van Rensburg.

They all had something to share that enriched us as staff and students and also gave us something to think about.

President Jacob Zuma delivered the fifth annual Charlotte Maxeke Memorial lecture, honouring the life of this ANC Women's League stalwart. The president's focus was on the role of women in the past 100 years and the journey forward.

Acclaimed journalists Justice Malala (political analyst, journalist and host of news show, *The Justice Factor*), Nic Dawes (Editor-in-chief of *Mail & Guardian*), Max du Preez (investigative journalist and political columnist) and Ferial Haffajee (Editor of *City Press*), all presented their views and experiences on the public's perceptions on The Spear painting during a seminar hosted by the university on this topic.

"South Africans – especially the older generation – still need to vent their anger ... White South Africa must be patient and allow black citizens to shout at them," said Max.

According to Nic the painting also brought up questions of how South Africans deal and live with pain.

Ferial said The Spear is art that is part of a rich cultural heritage of protest art and Justice said with the debates around The Spear painting, something died in South Africa. "The debate was taken away from us. We let politicians get to us."

Well-known author and political economist Moeletsi Mbeki also made his contribution to enrich the lives of scholars and academics with his talk about "The political economy of South Africa".

The university community was also honoured to host Rev. Frank Chikane delivering the Beyers Naudé lecture on our South Campus. His presentation was in line with the theme of the lecture, "Collaborative partnerships for social cohesion: Building a nation with ethics".

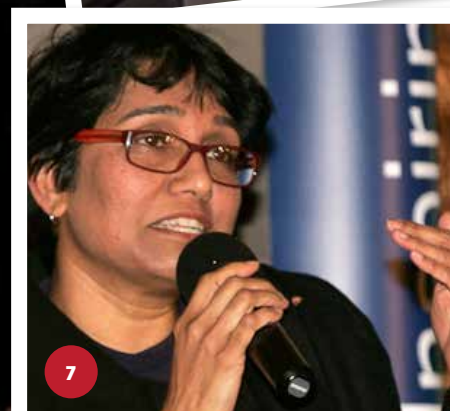
On a lighter note, celebrity and television star Brümilda van Rensburg also visited our Bloemfontein Campus, talking about Diva-ness with her discussion, "Celebrate and reclaim the diva in you". This is the message female staff received at the annual women's breakfast, arranged by the Division Staff Wellness. Brümilda said that, just like 56 years ago when women had marched to the Union Buildings, women should come together and say no to rape, poverty and other societal problems.

She encouraged women to live passionately and to let go of fears they carried with them. – Leonie Bolleurs



1 – 3: Staff and students attending the Charlotte Maxeke Memorial Lecture.

4: Ms Angie Motshekga, Minister of Basic Education and Billyboy Ramahlele, Director: Community Engagement.



67 minutes for Madiba

It was a winter morning with a difference when scores of our Qwaqwa Campus staff and students prepared themselves to spend their day contributing positively to the well-being of those who are less fortunate. This was in response to the international call to honour former President Nelson Mandela by dedicating at least 67 minutes towards charitable deeds.

Over 70 students and staff members visited the Lokolohang and Beisang Mabewana daycare centres where they helped with the re-painting of the playgrounds, feeding of children and gardening. They also helped with

the washing of the laundry. These two daycare centres are in partnership with the university whereby their learners are part of the computer literacy classes that are held on the campus.

"We are glad that we could make a difference in other people's lives," said organiser Moodi Matsoso, Community Engagement Officer.

"Such activities bring so much fulfilment to our lives as well and it evident that Nelson Mandela Day should be every day and not just on the 18th of July," Moodi concluded.

Meanwhile, the Faculty of Education staff also did their bit by visiting the Gogo-Getters daycentre in Slovo Park where they prepared a hearty meal for the children and also did gardening. On campus, Student Affairs prepared and served needy students with delicious soup as part of their programme. – **Thabo Kessah**



UFS students Ndbezinhle Mngomezulu, Nthabiseng Matsoso and Dineo Babili, putting some final painting touches to the playground at the Lokolohang daycare Centre in Phuthaditjhaba.

Computers their passion; give our Service Desk a call

By Amanda Tongha



Thulani Shabalala and Johannes Coetsee.

It doesn't matter how long you have been with the university, you must have dialled the number x2752 at least once to report a computer-related problem or have somebody reporting it on your behalf.

If you have wondered who the people are that come to the rescue just as you are about to blow up your computer,

forget the Hollywood version of the IT person. Erase images of the geek who plays computer games for hours.

Taking your phone calls is a dedicated team of professionals who know they are the first point of contact and that the image of a whole department depends on what service they give you. The people at our Information and Communication Technology (ICT) service desk take their job seriously and geeky they are not.

Take Thulani Shabalala, a musician who aspires to be a gospel minister one day. Starting as a field technician in our ICT department, Thulani now works as one of seven service-desk analysts. They are the people who take your calls and see that you perform your job with as little interruption as possible, the least of all a computer problem.

"I was not even an IT person; I got into it as part of a learnership. As I was doing it, studying it I realised this was wonderful. Now I love it."

That love he brings to the ICT service desk, making sure that when you hang up the phone after reporting a computer problem, everything is sorted out.

Sharing Thulani's love of computers is colleague

Johannes Coetsee, who believes in empowering users while talking to them over the phone. "You can do one of two things. You can talk to them and also explain how you do things. Give them a bit of training in the basic things."

At the age of 23, Johannes is one of the youngest in his department, but he is an old hand at computers, having taken his parents' computers apart at the age of 11 to see how they worked.

"I don't buy computers; I buy the parts and build them to my specifications," this IT boffin says.

He brings his expertise to the service desk, making IT as easy as possible for everyone.

"I always think about my mother; think why she doesn't understand. First, you have to get the user calm and then you can attend to the problem. It is the nicest thing when somebody is frustrated and you can solve his or her problem within 10 seconds. It makes you feel good."

Both service-desk analysts agree that patience and friendliness are important requirements for their job.

"You don't know to whom you are talking; whether it is a doctor or professor. You must have respect for everyone," Johannes says.



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“Believe in yourselves”

By Thabo Kessah



On the 6th of August, our Vice-Chancellor and Rector, Professor Jonathan Jansen, paid the university partner schools a courtesy visit to motivate both the learners and their teachers.

In his talk, Prof Jansen emphasised the need for learners and teachers to believe in themselves.

“We believe in your potential at the university. We are looking forward to having all the matriculants at one of our three campuses in 2013. We are looking for good students. This means those who are good academically and as human beings. You can have a degree, but remain a thug. That's not what we want to produce. We want to produce excellent human beings,” Prof Jansen said to matriculants at Ntsu Secondary School.

“You are extremely clever and we want to thank your committed teachers for that. So don't believe anything else you are being told by those who don't believe in you. All of you here are like our own Sannah Mokone from Odendaalsrus who is now studying at Oxford University in the UK. All that she needed to hear was that she could also do it and look where she is now,” continued Prof. Jansen, referring to a former Kopsie student who is now studying at one of the world's best universities.

Prof. Jansen urged all matriculants to protect themselves at all times.

“You don't become good by sleeping your life away and being reckless. Prepare your life as early as now and get at least one degree. Don't be

irresponsible, set a goal for your life and take care of your body. Remember, if you fail to plan, you are actually planning to fail,” Prof. Jansen concluded.

He also visited Tiisetsang, Thabo-Thokoza, Bethlehem Comprehensive and Ntsu Secondary Schools as part of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that the university signed with the municipality to have a working relationship. This agreement has already yielded positive results noting the improved results of the Dihlabeng schools in 2011.

Prof. Jonathan Jansen sharing the UFS vision with learners during his courtesy visit.

Kaartafdeling, die mense waarvoor jy nie kan wegkruip nie

Deur Amanda Tongha



Foto: Anja Aucamp

Dit maak nie saak of jy personeel, student of buitepersoon is nie. As jy gebruik maak van die universiteit se fasiliteite benodig jy 'n kaart en die plek om een te kry is by die kaartafdeling op die Thakaneng-brug op ons Bloemfontein-kampus. Die afdeling, een van die besigste by die universiteit, voorsien studente- en personeelkaarte aan ons Bloemfontein- en Suid-kampusse en is die domein van Gillian Hurford en Olga Oliphant. Jy ken hulle dalk nie, maar wees gewaarsku, hulle weet wie jy is.

“Ons ken almal op die kampus, van oorsese professore tot studente,” vertel Gillian, 'n assistentbeampte in ons Departement Finansies. Sy vertel die storie van 'n Amerikaanse personeelid wat die ander dag die afdeling besoek het. Toe hy instap om sy nuwe RFID-kaart af te haal groet sy hom op sy naam. “Ken ek jou?” vra dié ewe verbaas in 'n dik Amerikaanse aksent, waarop sy toe antwoord: “Ek het hierdie kaart gemaak.”

By die kaartafdeling word nie net kaarte uitgereik of geld daarop gelaai nie, maar daar word ook verhoudings gebou. “Ons is hul ma's, susters, vriendinne, sielkundiges en dokters,” vertel Gillian van die duisende studente wat

jaarliks hul drumpel betree. “'n Student sal byvoorbeeld in trane hier inkom en dan sê ek, 'Kom hier, bakkie, kom ons gaan agter toe en gaan gesels.' Ons is hier om te bemoedig en te adviseer; dis meer as net die uitreik van studentekaarte.”

Sy, Olga en LEMONIA Christolis, hul lynbestuurder, werk ten nouste saam as 'n span om die Kopsie-familie te bedien. LEMONIA, wat ook insit vir ons onderhoud, sit in die George du Toit-administrasiegebou, maar weet presies wat op die brug aangaan, volgens die twee.

“Ons is susters,” sê Olga.

Vir haar span het LEMONIA net lof. “Hulle is positief en geduldig. In die afdeling kan jy nie bekostig om 'n afdag te hê nie. Jy kan nie 'n slegte dag op studente uithaal nie. Hulle verdien nie jou humeur nie, dis nie hulle wat jou ontstel het nie.”

Gillian sê in die kaartafdeling moet jy jou gevoelens kan kamoufler.

Onbeskofte klante kry hulle ook, maar Olga is daar om hulle uit te sorteer, sê Gillian. “Ja, ek kan,” val Olga in. “Vir hulle kners jy op jou tande,” laat hoor LEMONIA van haar kant af. Vir die drie dames gaan dit alles oor geduld en daarvan het hulle baie.

Olga Oliphant, LEMONIA Christolis en Gillian Hurford van die Kaartafdeling.

Photos: Johan Roux



Pieter-Dirk Uys.

2012 Global Leadership Summit attracts students and scholars from around the world

By Lacea Loader

From 8 to 20 July 2012, the university welcomed and hosted 200 students, academics and senior administrators from 27 universities in the US, Europe and Asia during its inaugural biennial Global Leadership Summit.

This two-week summit, with the theme, "Transcending Boundaries in Global Change Leadership", focused on international and critical dialogue in addressing salient issues of change leadership, diversity and reconciliation in Higher Education.

Participants attended lectures by eminent academics (including Fulbright Scholars) and prominent leaders addressing, among others, transformational leadership, social justice and globalisation. Staff, students and group mentors reflected on the various themes of the human capabilities required for change leadership as part of a formal learning programme. The programme also included visits to schools, communities and historical sites surrounding the university campuses in Bloemfontein and Phuthaditjhaba.

The summit forms part of the UFS Leadership for Change initiative, started in 2010, which annually provides 150 diverse students with a lot of potential with an opportunity to study abroad as part of a year-long engagement to develop change leadership capacity.

The university and its partner institutions continue this multidimensional programme to develop its global initiatives further. This includes various research programmes, global think tanks and co-curricular learning engagements.

Hoe werk dit: Verlof

Deur Stefan Lotter

Die universiteit is die akademiese instansie met die meeste verlofvoordele in die land, maar al sy werknemers is nie aldag bewus hiervan nie.

Daar is 'n wye verskeidenheid verlof wat by die universiteit geneem kan word, maar selfs net in die basiese vakansie- en siekverlof is die voordele baie ruim.

"Ons hoef slegs 15 dae vakansieverlof te gee, maar die universiteit gee tot 42 dae vir byvoorbeeld dosente en 24 tot 36 dae aan iemand in 'n steundienspos, afhangende van die posvlak," sê Susan van Jaarsveld, Adjunkdirekteur van Menslike Hulpbronne.

"Ons hoef net 36 dae siekverlof oor 'n siklus van drie jaar te gee, maar die universiteit gee tot 120 dae.

"Almal kwalifiseer vir vakansie- en siekverlof. Wat mense geneig is om te vergeet is dat vakansieverlof slegs weksdae is, terwyl siekverlof kalenderdae is wat afgetrek word," sê sy.

Slegs indien 'n persoon langer as drie dae siek is, hoef 'n mediese sertifikaat ingedien te word. Volgens Susan is 'n algemene probleem die gevalle waar daar nie bewyse ingedien word vir watter tipe verlof ook al nie.

Personeel kan ook nou self vir vakansieverlof op die selfhulpdiens van die universiteit se intranet aansoek doen. Dit is vir alle werknemers met toegang tot 'n

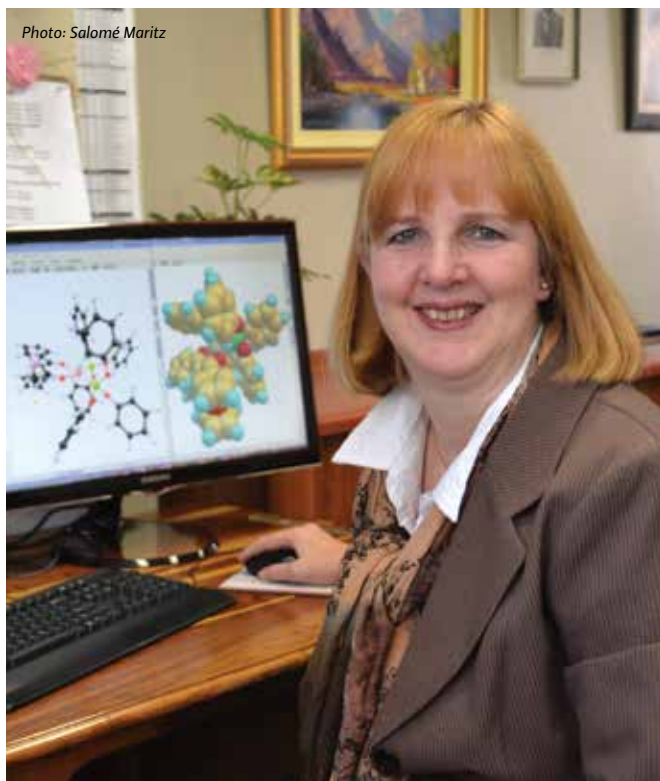
werksrekenaar en skakel die lang prosesse van vorms inhandig uit.

Verder is daar ook drie dae 'n jaar deernisverlof, begrafnisverlof van twee dae per geval, kraamverlof, navorsingsverlof, eksamenverlof en spesiale verlof beskikbaar.

"As iemand vir die universiteit oorsee gaan, kry hul byvoorbeeld spesiale verlof," sê Susan. "Dit is omdat personeel dan met kampusaangeleenthede besig is, maar nie op kampus is vir werk nie.

"In gevalle van studieverlof kry onderrigpersoneel van ses maande na 'n jaar om hul Ph.D. klaar te maak," sê sy.

Photo: Salomé Maritz



Prof. Jeanet Conradie, the first female professor to be appointed at the Department of Chemistry.

Jeanet Conradie, first female professor in Chemistry

"Being the first female professor to be appointed shows that South Africa is changing, and that the traditional men's world is achievable for women as well," said Prof. Jeanet Conradie, from the Department of Chemistry at our university. "I suppose it is special. All my lecturers were male: from my first year in 1977 till my Ph.D. in 2000. I never had a female lecturer."

Born in Bloemfontein, Prof. Conradie is a driven career woman with a M.Sc. in Physics and a Ph.D. in Chemical kinetics, electrochemistry and structural aspects of ferrocene-containing B-diketonato complexes of rhodium (I) and iridium (I). Her career thus far includes spending six months as a post-doc at the Department of Physical Chemistry, University of Tromsø, Norway during 2002-2003. She has 91 academic publications in print, three technical reports, delivered 16 lectures at conferences and has several poster contributions to international conferences. One of her career highlights includes being under the top 10 researchers at the university in terms of publication output units (POUs) since 2009. "In 2011 my eldest daughter received the prize as the best Ph.D. student in Chemistry, definitely a highlight for a mother!"

On her wish list for the future is "a higher NRF rating, to maintain a high research output and to be a devoted lecturer and study leader for my students". As a bright and inspiring woman "my main vision in life is to serve my community as well as possible. To achieve this I continuously strive to improve my abilities and to widen my knowledge. I believe, you either make progress in life, or you lag behind."

Although atoms and molecules, "the building blocks of the world", intrigue her most about chemistry, Prof. Conradie also agrees that chemistry within a romantic relationship should exist: "Cuddle a chemist and see the reaction!"

As an academic Prof. Conradie agrees that it is important to keep setting goals for yourself that encourage continuous progress. "To reach a goal, you have to utilise opportunities that come your way, have confidence in yourself and be realistic: climb the mountain step by step. I evaluated myself and decided to concentrate on my strongest abilities and most important is to enjoy your work." However, the cardinal rule is to always "stay humble and never to neglect your family and children".

Her advice to young aspiring students is always to stay true to yourself and "I believe that I should develop all the talents that God gave me". – Salomé Maritz

Department of English helps **improve teaching** at schools

By Brian Naidoo

Photo: Amanda Tongha



Attempts by the university to improve the standard of English teaching and learning at schools have proven to be successful with our Department of English again hosting a workshop for high school teachers this year.

Approximately 100 schools' teachers in the Motheo District of the Free State attended a workshop at our South Campus to upgrade their skills and knowledge on teaching various aspects of English to secondary school learners.

A partnership between the Department of English and the Free State Department of Education saw the teachers learning strategies on how to teach poetry, short stories, essay and paragraph writing. The teachers, most of them English second-language

speakers, will take the knowledge back to their classrooms.

It was the second time our university presented the workshop. The first workshop was presented in February 2011 and the schools' participating indicated a change in the results of their learners.

Mango Maqeba, Subject Advisor for English in the Motheo District, said they received an overwhelming positive response from teachers. "Teachers are challenged in school teaching-learning situations, and to ensure that they are not left behind, we looked to interested academics from the university, especially the Department of English, who are ever-willing to assist by volunteering their services even on a Saturday."

Brian Naidoo, from our Department of English, was joined by the Free State Department of Education's Hazel Motsoeneng (left), Director: Motheo District; and Mango Maqeba, English Subject Advisor: Motheo District; at the workshop: Teaching aspects of English.

Parkering minder gekompliseerd

Met 'n universiteit wat steeds aan die uitbrei is en studentegetalte wat bly toeneem, bly parkering 'n kwelpunt vir talle op ons kampusse. Die kwessie is al meer as een keer deur prof. Jonathan Jansen aangespreek soos in die Maandagbulletin van 26 September 2011 waarin hy noem dat parkering wêreldwyd 'n probleem op elke universiteitskampus is.

Vroeër hierdie jaar is 'n span onder leiding van Nico Janse van Rensburg, Senior Direkteur: Fisiese Beplanning, saamgestel om riglyne vir die gebruik van parkeerplekke op ons kampusse te voorsien. Na verskeie inligtingsessies oor parkering en nadat daar deur honderde e-posse en boodskappe met voorstelle en kommentaar gegaan is, is 'n parkeerbeleid vir die universiteit uiteindelik aanvaar. Daar word gehoop dat parkering met die nuwe beleid meer ordelik sal geskied met minder frustrasies vir personeel, studente en besoekers.

Volgens Nico sal die parkeerbeleid stelselmatig geïmplementeer word sodat mense gewoon daaraan kan raak. Die nuwe parkeerbeleid sal dan vanaf Januarie 2013 toegepas word.

Diegene in besit van 'n motorvoertuig of motorfiets

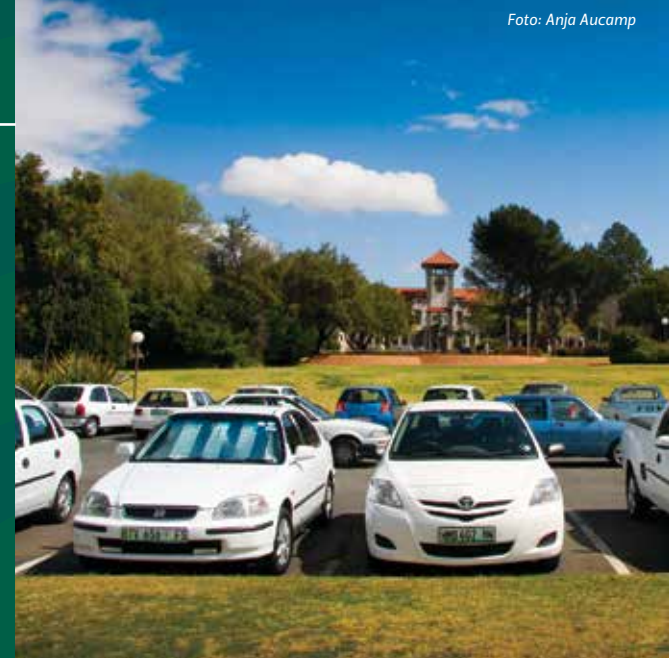
wat op ons kampus parkeer, sal in die vervolg aan sekere voorwaardes moet voldoen. Soos normaalweg by die gebruik van parkeergeriewe word sekere parkeerareas geserveer vir spesifieke gebruikers soos personeel, studente, besoekers en persone met gestremdhede.

Die nuwe beleid gee voorkeur aan personeel wat die voorreg sal hê om naby aan hul werkplekke te parkeer terwyl studente die parkeerplekke aan die rand van die kampus sal kry. Die allokering van parkeerplekke sal deur die universiteitsbestuur bepaal word. In nie-gereserveerde parkeerareas geld die beginsels van eerste kom, word eerste bedien.

Die gebruik van parkeerplekke gaan ook in die vervolg gemonitor word om te sorg dat parkeerplek optimaal en slegs gebruik word vir dit waarvoor dit voorsien is. Diegene wat nie hou by regulasies nie, kan streng optrede verwag, waaronder boetes.

Die volledige parkeerbeleid is op die Personeelintranet onder beleide beskikbaar. – Amanda Tongha

Foto: Anja Aucamp



Kovsies heading Euro Bursary programme

By Stefan Lotter

Our university is very proud of its most recent Erasmus Mundus Bursary programme, also referred to as the EU-SATURN programme (European-South African programme in Tuning for Regional Needs in Higher Education),

Erasmus Mundus is a to-and-out of Europe scholarship project, which mostly attracts scholarships to Europe. Yet in 2010, following serious groundwork, about 2 million Euros were made available for South Africa to become a part of the attraction. This was the result of great intergovernmental relations.

Erasmus Mundus aims at the development of a comprehensive approach to internationalisation demands of South African universities as part of ongoing transformation processes in higher education in South Africa.

In this recent programme where a total of 12 universities exchange either students or staff for studies in any discipline aligning to a national focus, our university serves as the coordinator in consortium with the applicant University of Groningen.

"The existing relations between the two universities helped," says Dineo Gaohwe-Ingram, Assistant Director at our university's Office of International Affairs.



Bursary holders with staff from the Office of International Affairs.

"Beyond the basics of managing the project, we are also involved in marketing, selecting and making proposals for as many applicants as possible." Students and staff – even non-academic staff – at our university qualify for the bursary. The first and foremost criteria are obviously academic.

"The question is asked what value studying overseas will add to the course," Dineo says. "If all applicants meet the academic criteria and selection needs to be made from a large group, the next phase will be to determine which disciplines are more important in terms of the national focus," she says.

"We have had two Erasmus Mundus projects we are very proud of in Antwerp in Belgium. The second project, although initiated in 2011, will see seven students and two staff members from this university leave now in August/September to study in Antwerp."



Raymond makes huge impact in short space of time

By Ruan Bruwer

It seldom happens that a player makes such a huge impact on a rugby field in such a short space as Raymond Rhule did in 2012.

After just three matches for the Free State Cheetahs in this year's Currie Cup, some pundits predict it will only be a matter of time before he becomes a Springbok.

Earlier in the year he was still playing for the Shimlas' Young Guns (Under 20) in the Varsity Cup.

He was later called up to play for the Shimlas' senior side where coach Jaco Swanepoel picked him as a winger for the first time in his career.

Rhule had previously played outside centre and fullback.

Raymond Rhule in action for the Junior Springboks in their semi-final of the International World Championships in which he scored twice.

Although he did not get much game time for the Junior Springboks in the International World Championship in June, when he did, he made it count.

In the semi-final against Argentina, he scored two scintillating tries within the space of two 12 minutes after coming on as a replacement.

What impressed about both tries were the superb angles from which he ran.

He was the only Free State player in the South African squad and describes the win over New Zealand in the final as the highlight of his career thus far.

Being selected for the Cheetahs' first outing in the 2012 Currie Cup, little was known about this "Black Diamond", as assistant coach Hawies Fourie refers to him.

However, afterwards everyone would have taken notice as he scored his side's only two tries and being named the Most Valuable Player for his coaching staff. Not bad for a 19-year-old in his debut game.

Raymond is the first one in his family to play rugby. At the age of six he moved from Ghana to South Africa with his family.

"I was introduced to the sport in the hostel in Bloemfontein where the boys often played touch rugby. I would like to introduce my little brother (4) to rugby as well when he's a bit older," Raymond told *Dumela*.

Dis nie genoeg om te hoop u is gereed vir aftrede nie. U moet begin beplan.

As 'n gegradueerde professionele persoon met 'n suksesvolle praktyk of korporatiewe loopbaan, laat u inkomste u toe om 'n sekere lewenstyl te geniet. Maar wat van wanneer u aftree? Sal u nog daardie lewenstyl kan bekostig?

Sal u werkgewer se aftreefonds of die verkoop van u besigheid of praktyk voldoende wees?

'n Uittree-annuïteit (UA) is waarskynlik een van die beste maniere om 'n neseier op te bou of u bestaande spaar- of beleggingsfondse aan te vul. Dink daaraan as 'n doen-dit-self-pensioenplan. Dit word teen krediteure beskerm en die premies is, binne limiete, aftrekbaar van belasbare inkomste.

Sanlam se Uittree-annuïteit bied u:

- **Buigsaamheid:** U kan kies uit 'n wye verskeidenheid van beleggingsopsies, terwyl beleggingsportefeuilles te eniger tyd verander kan word.
- **Waarde vir geld:** As 'n professionele persoon kwalifiseer u vir Sanlam se laagste tariewe.
- **Die Sanlam Aftreeversterker:** Vind baat by die groei in die Sanlam-aandeleprys!

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GELISENSIEERDE VERSKAFFER VAN FINANSIËLE DIENSTE

Kleinsêr Craze at Kovsie-kerk

By Jo Mbangata

The venue was a festival of excitement and anticipation, with just a touch of nervous tension, all rolled into one, with the audience, mostly comprised of students living in residences that are performing here tonight awaiting the arrival of the first competitors to perform at the annual Kovsie Kleinsêr finals. The events that have led to this evening include countless sleepless nights and hard work that are synonymous with this 27-year-old competition. For the performers and the creative machines that have put the performances together, nothing less than first prize will do.

The winning residences – one male and one female – will walk away with cash prizes, along with the honour of representing the university at the National Kleinsêr Championships. As the winners are revealed at the end of the night, nervousness is quickly replaced by a fusion of jubilation and gloom. The building bursts with celebrations by students supporting the winners Veritas and Marljolein, but there are sadly no consolations for the losers.

Newly appointed Arts and Culture Officer, Tonderai Chiyindiko says he was pleasantly surprised by the performances. "As a newcomer to the Kleinsêr experience I was completely bowled over by the level of the performances and talent."

The Kleinsêr Nationals were held on our Bloemfontein Campus. "Nationals are a bigger scale of the competition and I believe they will give me an appreciation of what sêr means to students," said Tonderai. The Kleinsêr National competition saw Kovsie rivals such as Tuks and the Pukke in Bloemfontein where they competed in the coveted National Kleinsêr Championships.

Klein dingetjies maak 'n reuse verskil vir dié studente

Deur Igno van Niekerk



Foto: Igno van Niekerk

In die laat-tagtigs was een van my universiteitsvriende, Barry, in 'n rolstoel. Met elke klas het Barry iemand gesoek wat hom by die trappe op te help dra, oor randstene te lig, en teen die einde van die dag help om by die plek te kom waar hy opgelaai kon word.

Wat 'n wonderlike verskil is dit nie vandag op die kampus nie. Nie alleen sien die Eenheid vir Studente met Gestremdhede om na fisiese behoeftes in terme van geboue nie. Oor die afgelope tyd het studentebehoeftes toegeneem, en het die sentrum al meer geleenthede vir studente geskep. 'n Gesprek met 'n ma van een van die studente wat deur die sentrum ondersteun word, som die werk van die sentrum op: "Ek is hulle ewig dankbaar, as ouer vind ek hulle werk besonder waardevol vir my kind."

Die verskeidenheid van studentebehoeftes waarmee gewerk word, is verstommend. Daar is die studente met fisiese gestremdhede soos serebrale gestremdheid, veelvuldige sklerose en Spina Bifida. Ander studente is gehoorgestrem, wat wissel van doof, doofwordend tot hardhorend. Siggestremde studente wissel van swaksiende studente tot studente wat blind is. Dan is daar studente met leergestremdhede wat ADHD en disleksie insluit. Gegewe die verskeidenheid

waarmee die sentrum werk, is dit heel insiggewend om by hulle kantore in die ingangsportaal van die UV-Sasol-Biblioteek te gaan inloer.

Wanneer mens instap by die kantore van die sentrum is daar 'n positiewe energie wat uit gesellige werksessies weerklink. Dit is redelik duidelik uit gesprekke met Hetsie Veitch en Martie Miranda dat hulle voel hulle roeping om hier te wees. Om 'n verskil te maak.

En wat 'n verskil maak hulle nie!

In klasse waar dowe studente is, poog hulle om elke keer 'n tolk wat gebaretaal verstaan beskikbaar te hê. Hetsie self is betrokke by verskeie aanbiedings wat dosente en selfs studente meer bewus maak van moontlike behoeftes van studente met gestremdhede. Soms kan eenvoudige aanpassings 'n reuse verskil maak. 'n Dosent wat 'n siggestremde student in die klas het word net daarop attent gemaak dat, wanneer hy/sy op die bord skryf, hulle ook moet sê wat hulle skryf. Klein dingetjies wat 'n reuse verskil maak.

"Die wonderlike daarvan wanneer mens vir mense met gestremdhede voorsiening maak, is die feit dat nie alleen die gestremdes baat vind nie," merk Hetsie op. "Jy bou 'n rolstoeloprit, en skielik kan die ou wat pakkies aflewer dit ook gebruik, ook die ouer

persoon met seer knieë, of iemand wat 'n baba in 'n stootwaentjie stoot." Hetsie se passie om 'n verskil te maak is duidelik uit haar geanimeerde gesprek en die stories wat sy vertel. Soos die student wat met moeë oë en 'n dik bril in een van die klasse gesit het. "Die student het nie eers geweet sy kan ekstra tyd in die eksamen kry nie, en dat ons van haar werk kan vergroot nie. En sy was al besig met haar honneurs!"

Uitdagings is daar baie. Hetsie lag wanneer sy vertel. "Jong, daar is kopieregkwessies wanneer ons byvoorbeeld notas in braille vertaal. Sommige dosente is bekommerd oor hulle intellektuele eiendom, en ander is weer nie geneë daarmee om hulle klasse te laat opneem nie." Die uitdagings hou ook nie hier op nie. "Baie studente voel dat wanneer hulle leerprobleme het, hulle nie as gestremd wil beskou word nie – dan kom soek hulle nie hulp hier nie. Selfs die semantiek is 'n uitdaging. Dis mos nie 'n skande om hulp te kry as jy swaarkry nie.

Dis wanneer mens uitstap dat jy besef dat hierdie span nie gestremdhede as uitdagings of probleme beskou nie. Vir hulle is gestremdhede geleenthede.

Geleenthede wat vir almal tot voordeel strek! **Positiewe energie weerklink uit gesellige werksessies by die Eenheid vir Studente met Gestremdhede.**

"Gees besonders by Olimpiese Spele," sê oud-Kovsie

Deur Ruan Bruwer

Ná die gogga van die Olimpiese Spele hom gebyt het, wil die oud-Kovsie-pluimbalspeler Wiaan Viljoen oor vier jaar sorg dat hy weer in daardie ervaring deel wanneer die spele in Rio de Janeiro, Brasilië, aangebied word.

Wiaan (27) wat in 2010 sy BA-graad in Menslike Bewegingskunde aan ons universiteit behaal het, het die uitsonderlike voorreg gehad om die Londen-spele saam met sy jonger suster Annari (25) te beleef.

Annari is self 'n oud-Kovsie en was ook 'n lid van die Suid-Afrikaanse pluimbalspan.

"Die Spele oor vier jaar is definitief nou my volgende langtermyn doelwit. Pluimbal is nie 'n groot sport in ons land nie. 'n Ander groot doelwit van my is om pluimbal meer blootstelling te gee en die jonger spelers help ontwikkel," verduidelik hy.

Volgens Wiaan was die atletiekdorp in Londen amper soos 'n woonbuurt ingerig met woonstelblokke wat vir al die verskillende lande opgerig is.

"Die gees daar was iets anders. Jy het voortdurend die ander lande se atlete raakgeloop en almal het in dieselfde eetsaal geëet."

Hy sê hy was versigtig om nie te meegevoer te raak en fokus op sy spel te verloor nie.

"Ek was al voorheen in Londen gewees, so die meeste van die stad se besienswaardighede was aan my bekend. Ek het dus nie te veel sosiaal verkeer voor ek moes speel nie."

Die Suid-Afrikaanse manspan het nie verder as die uitdunrondes gevorder nie.

'n Tradisie onder pluimbalspelers is om die Olimpiese ringe te laat tatoeër as jy vir die Spele gekwalifiseer het.

Wiaan het dit ook gedoen en ofskoon dit nie vir hom 'n spesifieke betekenis het nie, dien dit as 'n herinnering dat hy dit tot by die Spele gemaak het.

Om te kwalifiseer, moes hy die beste in Suid-Afrika, Afrika en onder die 50 topspelers in die wêreld wees.



Wiaan en Annari Viljoen.



talk about it ...

In this edition, one exceptional staff member and two students tell us about their experiences worlds apart – stretching from participating in the Olympics, another meeting impressive personalities at the Google Zeitgeist Conference in London to a professor who is coordinating author of a book on life and the environment. It does not matter where we had to reach them for their stories – in the case of Prof. Van As it was the Okavango Delta, *Dumela* is bringing their news to you.



Prof. Jo van As

Die jaar 2012 is 'n besondere jaar prof. Jo van As, Hoof van die Departement Dierkunde en Entomologie aan ons universiteit.

Sy departement vier vanjaar sy eeufees en hy is self al vir 'n kwart van daardie jare by Kopsies. Boonop het 'n lywige publikasie waaraan die afgelope vyf jaar gewerk is, met hom as koördinerende outeur, die lig gesien. Die boek, *The Story of Life & the Environment – an African perspective*, is deur Random House Struik gepubliseer. Daar word gewerk aan 'n Afrikaanse weergawe en die boek sal ook in e-formaat beskikbaar wees.

Dumela het Jo en sy span in die Okavango-delta vasgepen om 'n paar vrae oor die boek te beantwoord (Terloops: Hulle moes 'n stywe afstand loop en onder 'n boom gaan sit waar 'Wi-fi' is om die e-pos te stuur!):

Waar het die gedagte aan die boek ontstaan?

Omdat daar 'n behoefte bestaan aan 'n ekologiese wat handel oor Afrika-voorbeelde. Daar is goeie teksboeke oor ekologie, maar dit is alles voorbeelde uit die noordelike halfrond. Die idee het gegroei, totdat die boek van Terrence McCarthy en Bruce Rubidge – *The Story of Earth and Life* gepubliseer is. Nadat daar met hulle 'n gesprek gevoer is, is daar besluit op 'n boek wat aanvullend daartoe is. Hulle boek is hoofsaaklik vanuit 'n paleontologiese, antropologiese en argeologiese perspektief geskryf, en hierdie boek is vanuit die biologiese perspektief geskryf, met 'n Afrika-perspektief.

Gee 'n blik op die omvang van die werk.

Dit was 'n enorme projek, waarvan niemand werklik die omvang in die beplanningsfase besef het nie. Die boek beslaan 450 bladsye, met 11 hoofstukke, 750 foto's en 200 kleurrike illustrasies en met meer as 20 kaarte van Afrika. Feitlik al die kaart-illustrasies was reeds voltooi toe Suid-Soedan onafhanklik geraak het, en daarna moes die kaarte daarvolgens aangepas word. **Wou jy iewers die taak opgee?**

Ek was nooit bereid om op te gee nie, want daar is geweldig baie in die projek belê. Daar was wel dae wat ek gewonder het of ek stapelgek was om dit aan te pak! **En aan die einde, hoe het dit gevoel om die eindproduk in jou hand te hou?**

Dit is werklik 'n hoogtepunt van my loopbaan, en dit is veral lekker omdat daar ook binnekort 'n Afrikaanse weergawe op die rakke gaan wees. Die boek is ook in elektroniese formaat beskikbaar. Die idee was ook om dit so toeganklik as moontlik te maak, en ons kon met finansiële hulp vanaf prof. Jonathan Jansen ook daarin slaag om die boek baie bekostigbaar op die rak te kry. – **Leatitia Pienaar**



Gabisile Hlumbane

Banyana Banyana made history when they qualified for the Olympics for the first time in the country's history and joined the many fortunate athletes who were given the chance to represent South Africa at one of the world's greatest sporting events. Among the squad was Bloemfontein's very own Gabisile Hlumbane, a versatile midfielder currently playing her club football at Kopsie FC. Gabisile shared her experience of the Olympic Games and her hopes for the future.

For her it was a huge opportunity to compete at the Olympics. She said, "I felt blessed and honoured to be chosen as many of the players who had been with us since qualification hadn't made it." Gabi also commented on a few of the athletes she got to meet: "I met Homare Sawa who is the current FIFA women's player of the year, Marta of the Brazilian women's football team, and Mexico's Giovanni Dos Santos."

Gabi also commented on the feeling of playing in front of a large audience and what the team can do to improve in the future. "It was an amazing feeling to play in front of so many people. The support from the South Africans was great and even the foreign supporters appreciated good football, but we need to have more friendlies against international opposition in future and work on our concentration during games."

As for the future, Gabisile has high hopes for her footballing career. "I was surprised to see that some of the other players were in their late twenties, and it has inspired me to continue playing and to work hard for the next Olympic Games." – **O'Ryan Heideman**



Sibusiso Tshabalala

It is not every day that one gets to meet former US President Bill Clinton, fashion maverick Dame Vivienne Westwood, Google founder and CEO Larry Page and singer and activist Annie Lennox. In a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, Kopsie student Sibusiso Tshabalala jetted off to London in May where he rubbed shoulders with these visionary leaders and innovators.

Selected as one of ten young people who are changing the world he was invited to attend the Google Zeitgeist Conference, an annual event where visionaries like Larry Page share perspectives on global issues.

"Meeting Bill Clinton was a memorable experience," the third-year B.Com. Law student says. "His warm persona and sharp intellect naturally draws people to him. He can speak for hours on end and the people around him will always listen eagerly and engage with him." In one of the pictures from the event posted on our university's Facebook page the former statesman is addressing Sibusiso. What did they talk about?

"He shared anecdotes of the moments he spent with former President Nelson Mandela. Many people know Bill Clinton is one of the world leaders who have spent a considerable number of birthdays and moments with Tata."

Sibusiso nearly did not make it to the conference. "I missed my connecting flight from Bloemfontein to Cape Town. It was a classic case of the airport authorities deciding to let the flight leave earlier without notifying us. There were about 10 of us who missed our flight. A good Samaritan gave me a lift to Johannesburg where I got a connecting flight to Amsterdam, from where I got to the UK eventually – a couple of hours late."

Trying to condense the experience is a challenge, the 20-year-old says. "I still haven't made sense of it all. The experience was a learning exercise for me in many ways. I've learnt the power of building networks and harnessing the innate creativity that lies in all of us." – **Amanda Tongha**



Pieter en Cecile.

Ons leer ken ...

Deur Amanda Tongha

Hulle is die mense wat verantwoordelik is vir ons universiteit se begroting en toesien dat geld by fakulteite en steundiensafdelings uitkom. Cecile Joubert is Adjunk-Direkteur: Finansies en Pieter du Plessis is Direkteur: Finansies.

Die twee deel 'n kantoor in die George du Toit-administrasiegebou en het baie in gemeen. Albei het B. Rek-kwalifikasies agter die rug en is gebore Vrystaters. Cecile het op Steynsrus grootgeword en Pieter is van Petrusville. Al twee het in 2007 by ons universiteit begin werk, Pieter in Maart en Cecile in April van daardie jaar.

Buite die werk is Pieter koshuishoof van Villa Bravado. Cecile is 'n groot musiek liefhebber wat hou van Afrikaanse musiek.

Hier is die twee se antwoorde op 'n paar willekeurige vrae.

Cecile Joubert

Mense stap altyd na my toe ... en sê hulle ken my of hulle vra of ek 'n natuurlike rooikop is. As dit by die werk is praat hulle met my oor hul begrotings.

Ek huil nie maklik nie maar... gee my 'n mooi boek.

Geld is nie alles nie ... maar my familie is.

Mense weet nie dat ek ... klavier speel nie. Ek het my Trap 9 (gelykstaande aan Unisa Graad 7) voltooi.

As ... mense maar net oor oor die weg met mekaar kan kom.

As ek op die Titanic was ... het ek geswem dat dit klap.

Pieter du Plessis

Mense stap altyd na my toe ... en vra hoekom ek so gelukkig lyk.

Ek huil nie maklik nie ... behalwe as dit kom by diep songs - veral in die kerk.

Geld is nie alles nie ... maar as jy nie oppas nie kan dit jou groot bekommernis gee.

As ... ek maar net 'n mielieland gehad het.

Mense weet nie dat ek ... baie belangstel in sterrekunde. Ook dat ek 'n trustee is van die Elanja Trust wat met minderbevooregte kinders in Heidedal werk.

As ek op die Titanic was ... sou ek die kaptein opgesoek het en iets aan die situasie probeer doen het.

The SKA draws the world's eyes to South Africa

Prof. Meintjes made the SKA project more tangible for the ordinary person. Even then, some of the information was too complex to grasp. Fundamental questions that will be answered with the knowledge gleaned from the SKA relate to the birth and evolution of the universe – especially the era of re-ionisation after the big bang when the first generation of massive stars ignited.

The telescope's superior sensitivity and resolution will enable it to probe into the darkest corners of the Milky Way galaxy to search for newborn stars and planets.

The telescope, consisting of 3 000 dishes, will give access to deep and dark areas of the universe. It will be so strong that the equivalent of a radar signal at an airport can be detected 50 light years away. It has 10 000 times the exploration capacity of existing telescopes.

The amount of data processed and transferred daily to researchers is staggering: the SKA is going to generate enough data in a 24-hour period to fill 15 million 64 GB iPods. The central computer will have the processing power of 100 million modern personal computers. The optical fibre used will be long enough to wrap around the earth twice.

All eyes are on South Africa with the construction of the SKA telescope at Carnarvon in the Karoo. The world will also be taking note of the quality of scientists and engineers trained at South African universities. Some of these students studied at our university. – **Leatitia Pienaar**

“South Africa’s giant eye to the sky” was the topic of a public lecture by Prof. Pieter Meintjes, head of the Department of Physics.



Proff. Pieter Meintjes and Hendrik Swart.



“Stick to your dreams, reach your destiny,” Zahara tells class of 2012

Grade 12 learners from more than 30 schools attended the Qwaqwa Campus Open Day where they had the rare opportunity of being motivated by Zahara.

In between her hits like ‘Loliwe’, ‘Umthwalo’ and ‘Destiny’, Zahara advised the Class of 2012 to stick to their dreams if they were to reach their destiny.

Also in attendance was our Vice-Rector: External Relations, Dr Choice Makhetha, who encouraged the packed Rolihlahla Mandela Hall never to allow their disadvantaged background to influence their future.

“I was also in your shoes years ago. I know how it feels to come from a poor family. “I am here today and proud to say I am part of the leadership of one of the best universities in the world,” said Dr Makhetha, herself a former student of the university.

Excited learners then visited various faculties and departments to see what they offered and they also had the opportunity to apply for placement in the 2013 academic year. – **Thabo Kessah**



Retirement, research and rest

Two of our university's brightest minds from the Faculty of Law, Prof. Martin Dednam and Prof. Charles Ngwena, have recently retired. Prof. Dednam was part of our university from 1982. He got various awards, for instance, of the university's award for Education and Service, KowsieSport's award for his commitment to shuttlecock, Kowsie Alumni's award for community service and many more.

"Among the highlights were the opportunity to get to work with staff from other faculties as well," says Prof. Dednam.

"Not a lot of the highlights came from lecturing in itself, but I did what I could for 30 years to improve the Faculty of Law."

Prof. Dednam will remain a research partner at

the faculty where he specialised in Mercantile Law. "I want to give something back to the university through my research and especially do more research in Sports Law. But for the greater part I want to start taking things easy."

Prof. Ngwena worked in Constitutional Law and Philosophy of Law at the university, which entailed teaching in the areas of Constitutional Law and of Health and Human Rights, researching and publishing, as well as community service.

His research was done in two main disciplines – Health and Human Rights and Disability.

"The most outstanding quality of our Faculty of Law is it being a place where one can excel in research and publications," Prof. Ngwena said. – Stefan Lotter



Prof. Ngwena.



Prof. Dednam.

bultjie

Kultuurjol and how to survive an airport

By die Kultuuraand, wat so pragtig aangebied is deur Personeelwelstand op kampus, het Bultjie sprakeloos gestaan oor al die talente van personeel. Wat 'n heerlike (lang!) aand met vele kulture verteenwoordig wat heerlik saamgelag, gesing en gekuier het. 'n Video daarvan sou pragtig gebruik kon word om Kowsies se kultuurverskeidenheid te adverteer. Wees daar volgende jaar!

I think we should challenge staff to do one of the following. You can dance, sing, recite a poem, do acrobatics, animal tricks, balloon twisting, card tricks, clowning, comedy, contortions and escapes, fire-eating, fortune-telling, juggling, magic, mime and a mime variation where the artist performs as a living statue, musical performance, puppeteering, storytelling or painting. I can think of various persons on campus who'll be very funny! I love my job – please don't fire me! But can you imagine Prof. Teuns Verschoor sword-swallowing! Prof. Marissa Brooks charming a snake! The Boss juggling and Prof. Weideman presenting a flea circus!

Only humour can save us from getting old before our time. And who said libraries aren't places with some fun? A librarian friend tells me that she

had the following strange requests: "Do you have any books with photographs of dinosaurs?" "Do you have that book by Rushdie, *Satanic Nurses*?" Rof nê! O yes! Children's books that you don't want your kids to read are *My cat's merry-go round*, and other great microwave games, *Fifty new places to poke a pencil*, *Flying lessons for kittens* and *Advanced screaming, crying and whining*.

Frustreer stadige lughawepersoneel julle ook so dikwels soos vir my? Ek hoor die storie van 'n drie-en-tagtig-jarige Granny Gordon, 'n Amerikaanse ouma in 'n rolstoel wat vrygespreek is op 'n klag van aanranding met gevaarlike wapens en met die doel om ernstig te beseer. Dis nou na haar onderonsie met ses sekuriteitsmense op 'n lughawe. Al ses het in die hospitaal beland.

"Geregtigheid het geskied," reken sy uit haar rolstoel al suidende aan haar suurstofbottel. Blykbaar wou sy op die lughawe reguit deurstap na die vliegtuig toe. "Die spul ape is dommer as klippe! Hulle laat elke Jan Rap en sy maat, terroris en wât nog als deurstap sonder dat hulle deursoek word, maar hulle sleep my eenkant toe om deurgesoek te word! Daai dikkietjie van driehonderd outydse pond was plein ongeskik. Bledie pervers!"

Die videoband wys hoe sy hom al platry met haar elektriese rolstoel en bo-op hom in die rondte spin. So 'n maer mannetjie probeer haar aftrek en sy slat hom disnis met haar suurstofbottel! Nog een kry ook 'n kishou terwyl sy gil: "Deursoek? Traai

om aan hierdie ou vrou te vat!" Die vierde ou wou kom help, maar sy steek hom met haar breinaald presies vier duim bo sy bobespier – van agter. Intussen moedig 'n hele klomp mense haar luidkeels aan. Nummer vyf se broek steek sy aan die brand met 'n sigaretaansteker, wat sy tot dusver as geheime wapen teruggehou het. Nummer ses slaat die vlamme op nummer vyf met sy hande dood – taamlik hard – waarop nummer vyf omswaai en vir nummer ses 'n stewige hou op die kakebeen gee. Intussen skree die arme man onder die stoel net: "Jammer meneer! Baie jammer meneer, ek sal nie weer nie!" Daai "meneer" was die vet op die vuur! Toe charge sy almal met daai stoel. Op een of ander manier het iemand die rolstoel se battery van agter af ontkoppel en tot stilstand gebring – nog steeds vloekend en skellend!

En sy stap skotvry uit die hof! Hoekom? Drie-en-twintig advokate wou haar gratis verdedig en tweehonderd mense het haar by die hof kom ondersteun. Volgens die landdros sou geen jurie in Amerika haar ooit skuldig bevind nie! Sy sluit haar betoog in die hof af met: "Ek vlieg more weer. En laat een van julle my net een skewe kyk gee!" Wens ons kon dié tannie hier kry! Bultjie reken daai standbeeld van die vrou voor die lughawe in Bloem is seker die een wat die vinnigste beweeg van almal daar!

Mooi loop, want vlieg is stadiger!

Bultjie