

A photograph of a large, ornate, light-colored building at night, illuminated by warm yellow lights. The building features a prominent central tower with a clock face and arched windows. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent red rectangle on the right side and a semi-transparent white rectangle on the left side.

# University of the **Free State**

Bloemfontein, South Africa

2012



*Main Building, Bloemfontein Campus.*











*A pathway on our beautiful Bloemfontein Campus.*



## Vision

A university recognised across the world for excellence in academic achievement and in human reconciliation.

### The place to be

The University of the Free State (UFS) is increasingly being seen as an exciting scholarship destination, as evidenced by an unprecedented level of interest by academics and students from around the world. The changes taking place at the university continue to capture the imagination of people everywhere, including the international media and our growing base of international universities.

The UFS is proud to be associated with a new class of honourees. In recent years, honorary doctorates have been awarded to Nobel laureates Nelson Mandela and Desmond Tutu, internationally-renowned jurist Justice Richard Goldstone, and US media icon and humanitarian Oprah Winfrey.

One of the reasons for the broader interest in the UFS is our very public commitment to the highest academic standards. In doing so the university pursues a vision of uplifting standards for students and academics alike despite the challenges young people encounter in the school system. We believe strongly that given the opportunity, all young people can achieve the high standards set by our university. This is our academic project.

The UFS remains conscious, however, of its responsibility for public scholarship, for turning ideas into action, for making research count in the lives of ordinary people, and for developing a spirit of service through scholarship among our students, the next generation of leaders in South Africa, on our continent, and in this global, interconnected world. In these pursuits the university seeks to distinguish itself from its competitors. Few universities, for

example, make human reconciliation one of the foundations of its new mission. This is our human project.

### Firm foundation of more than a century

With its central campus situated in Bloemfontein, the capital of the Free State province, the UFS is one of the oldest institutions of higher education in South Africa. It opened its doors in 1904 with a mere six students in the Humanities and has since grown to more than 30 000 students spread across seven faculties.

Bloemfontein is not only the birthplace of major political parties that shaped the political landscape in South Africa; the city has also produced some of the leading minds in teaching, medicine, agriculture, science, theology, economics, management and many other fields. We are particularly proud of the legal minds cultivated in the university and in the city, the home of the Supreme Court of Appeal.

The UFS also has a vibrant campus in the Eastern Free State serving rural students from the immediate area and surrounding provinces, and a smaller South Campus in Bloemfontein that provides alternative access to higher education for promising students who obtained poor marks in their final school examinations.

The university's seven faculties with more than 130 departments and/or schools are served by more than 4 600 academic staff members, supported by a strong administrative and support staff.

## Mission

The university will pursue this vision through its mission:

- Setting the highest standards for undergraduate and postgraduate education.
- Recruiting the best and most diverse students and professors into the university.
- Advancing excellence in the scholarship of research, teaching and public service.
- Demonstrating in everyday practice the value of human togetherness and solidarity across social and historical divides.
- Advancing social justice by creating multiple opportunities for disadvantaged students to access the university.
- Promoting innovation, distinctiveness and leadership in both academic and human pursuits.
- Establishing transparent opportunities for life-long learning for academic and support staff.

## Values

The following five core values represent deeply-held commitments that inform every policy and steer every action.

- Superior Scholarship
- Human Embrace

- Institutional Distinctiveness
- Emergent Leadership
- Public Service

These values underpin both the Academic Project and the Human Project as the foundation on which the university builds its strategy for the next five years and beyond.

## Academic and Human Projects

The Academic Project aims to build a strong academic institution marked by distinctiveness in teaching, research and public scholarship. The project includes rigorous academic entrance qualifications for first-time students, elevated standards for the professoriate, the transformation of undergraduate curricula, the investment in interdisciplinary research clusters, the recruitment of world-class professors, and the identification and promotion of “next generation” professors.

The Human Project seeks to connect the teaching and research of the university to the improvement of human lives. Our scholarship of service, through myriads of projects and initiatives, makes the vital connections between campus and communities through the production and dissemination of knowledge. The heart of the university recognises our historical woundedness and the desire for reparation and restitution such as represented in the work of our International Institute for Race, Reconciliation and Social Justice.





*DF Malherbe House, Bloemfontein Campus.*

# *Transforming knowledge*

*Education is the most powerful weapon which  
you can use to change the world.*

– Nelson Mandela

*Honorary Doctorate, UFS, 2002*











*My humanity is bound in yours, for we can only  
be human together. – Desmond Tutu*

*Honorary Doctorate, UFS, 2011*

*Extending learning*



*I believe there are two emotions that we are operating on in the world. You either move in the direction of love, which is grace, kindness, forgiveness. Or you are moving in the direction of fear which is jealousy, anxiety, racism, hatred, ignorance, all of that. – Oprah Winfrey*

*Honorary Doctorate, UFS, 2011*

*Expanding our influence*














‘The transformation of our country is there for all of us to see around us. We should on no account take these remarkable changes for granted indeed they should inspire us to even greater effort.’ – Justice Richard Goldstone

*Honorary Doctorate, UFS, 2012*

*Pursuing justice*









We have strengthened the professoriate with senior scholars and researchers drawn from around the world.








Our ground-breaking research in several fields of study has already contributed to the improvement of the human condition in areas including education, health and the natural environment.





*Embracing our diversities*

Prof. Maryke Labuschagne received a Kwame Nkrumah Continental Award for Life Sciences at the Summit of the African Union in Addis Abeba. She shared the moment with South Africa's President Jacob Zuma.









Music and the Arts lie at the heart of what makes the University of the Free State great.





*The taxi terminus on the Bloemfontein Campus received a prestigious Award of Excellence from the South African Institute of Architects.*



A photograph of a modern building with large glass windows and a brick wall in the foreground. The building is illuminated from within, and the brick wall is in the lower left corner. A semi-transparent red box contains text in the center-right of the image.

Our world-class facilities accommodate students from across the African continent and beyond. Innovations in e-learning distinguish the UFS from its competitors.



## Faculties

### Economic and Management Sciences

This dynamic and innovative faculty meets the demands and challenges of the currently fast-changing economic and management environment on local, regional, national and international level.

As a result, its undergraduate and postgraduate students have access to unparalleled opportunities for training, research and community service. They also have an exceptional opportunity to gain international exposure by means of various exchange agreements.

### Education

This faculty was constituted in 2009 and contributes to the social transformation of the broader society in South Africa. It is recognised nationally and internationally for its scholarship and contextualised understanding of education. Capacity is developed by strengthening the links between teaching, research and community engagement.

The faculty's most important role is to prepare pre-service teachers for their work in schools, ensuring that they have a strong disciplinary base for their professional work. A second role is the training of in-service teachers. This work is informed by and closely related to research and community outreach.

### Health Sciences

The faculty consists of the School of Medicine, the School for Allied Health Professions, and the School of Nursing. It benchmarks its training and research on international standards and delivers a crucial health-care service in a vast, very poor part of South Africa.

It boasts a number of units of national importance, including the National Control Laboratory for vaccine-testing and the only one in South Africa evaluated to do vaccine testing for the World Health Organization. The Sports Laboratory in the Department of Pharmacology tests samples for prohibited substances for various sporting codes.

The faculty is considered one of the best in the country and is proud of the high quality of health

professionals it produces. In today's competitive marketplace, ensuring a consistent approach to offering higher education and service is critical.

### Humanities

The Humanities Faculty is in the throes of transformation and enjoys international respect and recognition for its broad range of scholarship from psychology and languages, to history and political science. Its mission is the critical, imaginative and scholarly exploration of diverse aspects of the human condition, in service of humanity.

This faculty forms the foundation on which the University of the Free State has been built. Its scholars and students are recognised nationally and internationally for their high level of professionalism, their dedication and contributions to the humanities.

The faculty is the second largest at the university, with an enrolment of more than 7 300 students. Education is the biggest.

### Law

The Faculty of Law is one of the oldest and most distinguished faculties of its kind in South Africa and the only one the judicial capital of South Africa. The faculty is playing for more than a century an important role in legal education and training in the country.

One of the unique initiatives is the Centre for Financial Planning Law. It is the first academic institution in South Africa to offer formal postgraduate qualifications providing access to membership of the Financial Planning Institute of South Africa.

Valuable and widely recognised work is also done in the centres for Estate Planning Law, Business Law, Judicial Excellence, Labour Law, and the Unit for Children's rights and the UFS Law Clinic.

### Natural and Agricultural Sciences

The Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, with its diverse disciplines, encompasses a broad spectrum of expertise in the natural, agricultural and building sciences. The Natural Sciences focuses,



among others, on the biological sciences, forensic sciences, conservation genetics, biotechnology, mathematical, physical and chemical sciences, and geosciences.

The Agricultural Sciences has the most specialised group in South Africa serving the farm-animal industry with expertise in breeding, nutrition, and physiological manipulation. Research on irrigation and salinity, water harvesting and the optimisation of water use are some of the other focus areas.

A new department of Agricultural Engineering will be launched in 2013 to assist in developing capacity for more efficient energy and water utilisation in agriculture to mitigate the pressure on electrical resources and the effects of global warming in the country as well as on the rest of the continent.

The Building Sciences departments are national leaders recognised for their highly relevant and innovative work and are highly rated by national and international professional bodies.

### **Theology**

This is also a young faculty at the University of the Free State. Its courses are recognised by many church denominations, such as the Dutch Reformed Church, the Dutch Reformed Church in Africa, the Uniting Reformed Church in Southern Africa, the Anglican Church, Pentecostal and other independent churches.

The faculty's training is recognised internationally as being of exceptional quality. Postgraduate students constitute a significant strength of the faculty with representation from all over the world, including Africa, Europe, Asia and the USA. Sixty per cent of the total number of students is postgraduate students.

The mission of the faculty is to make a unique national and international contribution to the development of the church, society and the academe by means of quality theological training and specialist research in Theology from a classical-theological perspective.

The more recent focus on Religion Studies is intended to broaden the base of teaching and research beyond

the traditional churches served by the faculty in the past. The faculty is also involved in a sweeping process of curriculum review focused on the transformation of knowledge in the service of society.

### **UFS Business School**

The UFS Business School makes a major contribution towards the development and the delivery of successful business and leadership learning programmes in South Africa. In the competitive MBA market, the UFS Business School stands out among its peers nationally and internationally.

The Bachelor in Management Leadership degree (BML) is a unique undergraduate programme in the adult-learning environment creating learning and empowerment opportunities for business-orientated adult learners.

The Centre for Business Dynamics operates under the banner of the Business School. This centre offers customised non-curricular training in assisting companies and individuals to bridge the gap between their existing skills and competencies, and by those required to ensure their future performance and competitiveness as business leaders.

### **School of Open Learning**

This new school was launched in 2011. The activities of the school are driven by a central principle: opening up access to those who have not had the opportunity to study at a higher-education institution due to geographical location or socio-economic circumstances or other factors.

Programmes are delivered through a blended-learning model, which combines contact teaching with distance education. The school collaborates with our faculties, and is also managing the continuing education-sponsored endeavours of the Faculty of Education. These include projects for in-service training of teachers in Mathematics, Natural and Physical Sciences, Languages, Literacy, Economic and Management Sciences, Technology and various areas of Management and Leadership.







The University of the Free State is one of the most culturally diverse academic campuses in South Africa, and has won international awards for its contribution to transformation after apartheid.



A group of diverse university students are posing on a street, wearing matching red and blue striped blazers over white shirts. They are all smiling and cheering, with some raising their arms. In the background, a white car is visible on the road. The scene is bright and sunny, suggesting a festive or celebratory occasion.

Our vibrant university residence life builds life-long friendships among students from diverse backgrounds in the warm and intimate atmosphere of the *koshuise* (residences).





*First-year students and their parents received a warm welcome from the student leadership on their arrival.*



*Unleashing the human spirit*







We provide many of the top athletes for the provincial and national sports teams. Our world-class facilities are sought after by national teams from other countries for training, conditioning and playing.

## *Our heartbeat, our students*

The University of the Free State is a place where students study hard, but there are ample opportunities for a fun and a holistic student experience.









*The Ambassador of the United States of America to South Africa, Mr Donald H. Gips, during a visit to one of the schools that is part of the Extreme Makeover Project for Schools.*





We make major investments to improve teaching and learning in our neighbouring schools; we do not wait for students to come to university unprepared from the school system.

*Learning through service*

## International footprint

The objective of our international co-operation strategy is to foster high-quality and productive scholarship through partnerships, networks and coalitions with leading international organisations, universities and other groups and individuals.

Our diversity of international partners enables the university to increase its research revenues, to enrich its intercultural understandings, to extend its teaching and learning programmes, and to collaborate in scholarship across geographical and social boundaries.

Our established partnerships are to be found in the USA and Europe. In the USA, our flagship agreements include an institutional affiliation with the Jonathan Edwards Center at Yale University and a comprehensive agreement with Cornell University, both focuses on advanced research and teaching collaboration.

Institutional partnerships also exist with the Stanford University, the University of California in Los Angeles, the Appalachian State University, Mississippi State University, the University of Minnesota, and with Virginia Polytech, to name but a few.

In Europe, the university has partnerships in Belgium, France, and Germany. The partnership with the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium is one of our oldest. Activities under the agreement include the short-term exchange of academic staff, joint research activities, and the exchange of students from undergraduate to postdoctoral researchers. A memorandum of understanding was signed with Ghent University in 2007. The agreement with the University of Antwerp was renewed in April 2010.

In France, the collaborative agreement between Group ESC Rennes and the UFS Business School is renewed automatically every year. The agreement with the Institute of Political Sciences in Bordeaux is centred on Political Science, while the partnership between the Robert Schuman University and the UFS Business School also entails that lecturing staff visit our university to teach in the MBA Programme.

In Germany, the institutional agreement with the University of Bremen has also resulted in administrative staff from both commerce faculties learning from visits to the partner institution.

The university recently expanded its institutional partnerships worldwide to regions in Asia and other parts of Africa with institutions and scholars who share our values and vision for the future as a powerhouse for development through scholarship in Africa and beyond.







## Research clusters

The University of the Free State has an integrated approach to national priorities in South Africa. A set of five Strategic Academic Clusters constitute is a flagship initiative to drive research excellence in areas where the university has, or is building particular strengths. These clusters are:

- Materials and nanosciences
- Advanced biomolecular research
- Water management in water-scarce areas
- New frontiers in poverty reduction and sustainable development
- Technologies for sustainable crop industries in semi-arid areas
- Interdisciplinary research in the human and social sciences is under development.



*Research that makes a difference*



Main Gate, Bloemfontein Campus.



*Qwaqwa Campus, Eastern Free State.*

## Campuses

The central campus in **Bloemfontein** is an attractive, leafy campus where staff and students walk through and enjoy beautiful new buildings, parks, lawns, art work and social communes. This campus is regarded as one of the most racially integrated places of higher learning in South Africa.

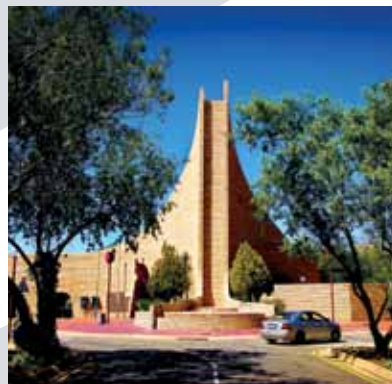
The **Qwaqwa Campus** is located in one of the most picturesque settings in the country, nestled between sandstone mountains and the open veld. The campus has a vibrant undergraduate programme with a few selected postgraduate offerings. The Qwaqwa Campus plays an important role in bringing higher education and development to this important region.



The **South Campus** offers the University Preparation Programme and other bridging courses to students preparing for access to mainstream degrees. This campus also houses the administration of all the university's short course programmes and a facility to assess the recognition of prior learning among adult learners. Home to the **School of Open Learning**, South Campus programmes reach thousands of students in 26 centres in the Free State, Northern Cape and Eastern Cape.

The University of the Free State also has five **satellite campuses**, namely in Bethlehem, Kimberley, Oudtshoorn, Sasolburg and Welkom where students can complete first-year programmes in the humanities, economics, management, the sciences and other fields.

At the end of May 2012, a total of 22 236 students were enrolled on the Bloemfontein Campus, 3 831 at Qwaqwa and 5 186 on the South Campus.



*South Campus, Bloemfontein.*

## Financial stability

The UFS is recognised nationally for its sound financial position with an annual institutional budget in excess of R1,6 billion.

The university is a major role player in economic and social development in the Free State, Northern Cape and Eastern Cape, as well as in neighbouring Lesotho. Apart from being the largest institution of higher learning, the university is also a significant supplier of work opportunities in Bloemfontein. The UFS has a major impact on the economy of the region in terms of buying power and the use of utilities and resources.

## Initiatives to be proud of

The University of the Free State is proud of a variety of initiatives, research and other activities that sets it apart from other institutions of higher learning. To list some of them:

- The International Institute for Studies in Race, Reconciliation and Social Justice is a critical space where engaged scholarship, public discussion, community engagement and teaching are innovatively integrated towards exploring and finding solutions to the complex and challenging work of social transformation in South Africa.
- The Leadership for Change Programme is a study-abroad experience for first-year students aimed at exposing them to diverse cultures and to learn leadership skills in order to build new campus cultures. These students become leaders during their years of study and commit to building a non-racial community also beyond their years at university.
- The No Student Hungry programme provides a food bursary to poor but academically promising students on the Bloemfontein Campus; the programme will be extended in time to the other campuses.

- The Schools Partnership Project intends to turn around learner performance in the last three grades of high school leading to senior certificate examination. Twenty-three schools in the Free State are already part of this project where the innovative model focuses on direct mentoring of principals and teachers as well as subject matter competence in accountancy, physical science and mathematics.
- The UFS101 is a newly designed core-curriculum that introduces first-year students to complex social problems in South African society covering “big questions” from the fields of science, religion, history, law, economics and ethics.
- The Vice-Chancellor’s Prestige Scholars Programme identifies and promotes the most promising young academics in the university towards becoming full professors with superior research accomplishments. This fast-tracking of the next generation of professors involves an intense mentorship programme at the home institution and an international placement with a leading scholar in a top university.
- The International Advisory Council of leading thinkers and practitioners of higher education advises the senior leadership of the institution on its policies and strategies benchmarked against “best practices” among leading universities in the world.
- The School for Allied Health Professions provides top-quality teaching and training, as well as clinical services and research focused on the improvement of health among citizens.
- The Unit for Students with Disabilities serves students with disabilities and ensures access to courses, buildings, learning material, residences, leisure and sport activities for all students on an equal basis.
- The Unit for Children’s Rights promotes research and training in the field of children’s rights.





*Prof. Jonathan Jansen, Vice-Chancellor and Rector,  
and prospective students.*





UFS·UV

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





- The Human Trafficking Initiative unit establishes co-operation with various national and international stakeholders and researchers to combat human trafficking.
- The Jonathan Edwards Center for Africa is affiliated with the Jonathan Edwards Center at Yale University in New Haven, USA, and serves as a research, education, and publication hub for studying the works of Edwards as a leading theologian.
- The Odeion String Quartet symbolises our commitment to the arts as the ensemble is the only resident string quartet at a South African university.
- The SA Doping Control Laboratory (SADoCoL) is the only one of its kind in South Africa, and one of only two in Africa.
- The South African Fryer Oil Initiative monitors edible oils in the food industry and makes a seal of quality available to approved oil distributors.
- Nanotechnology research is well-established at the UFS and is responsible for regular breakthroughs in the medical and biological fields.
- The Metagenomics Platform enables researchers to extract DNA from microbes in their natural habitat and to investigate it further to the benefit life on earth.
- The GMO Testing Facility provides diagnostic detection and quantification of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in grain and processed foods for the food industry in South Africa.
- The Centre for Development Support promotes sustainable human development in the broader South African society through quality research and consultancy in this field.
- The Disaster Risk Management and Education Centre for Africa (DiMTEC) offers the only postgraduate qualification in Disaster Management in Africa.

## Making a difference

The University of the Free State produces cutting-edge knowledge and cultivates research expertise to serve disadvantaged communities in South Africa and the region. It takes great pride in projects such as:

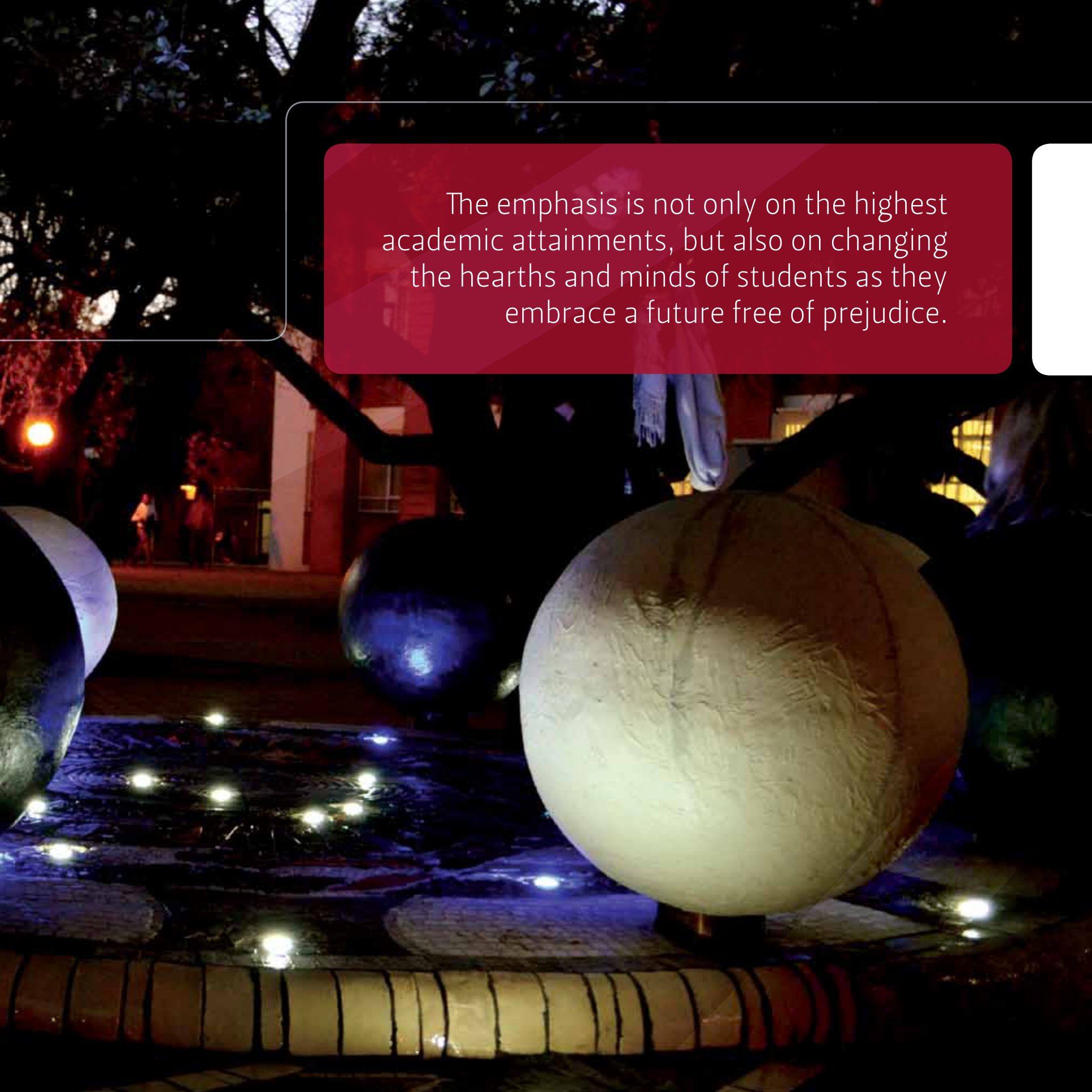
- The *Beds of Hope Campaign* of the Department of Paediatrics and Child Health that aims to improve health-care facilities for babies and children in need of specialised health care. The goal is to constantly acquire state-of-the-art equipment to provide for the health needs of our most vulnerable children.
- The *Family Math and Family Science Initiative* of the Centre for Education Development brings everyday mathematics and science to children and their families.
- The *Boyden Observatory* outside Bloemfontein, one of only three optical observatories in Africa, plays a significant role in research but also brings school children into contact with astronomy research and practice.
- The *Mangaung String Programme* provides more than 500 township children with quality training in classical music, with some of the children graduating to play in music ensembles.
- The successful *Emerging Farmers Programme* works in conjunction with the Free State and Northern Cape provincial governments. The programme assists emerging farmers with scientific knowledge and skills to capacitate them to do sustainable farming.
- The *Extreme Makeover Project for Schools* is one in which the university works with schools in severe physical distress to raise the resources and deliver the expertise to restore the infrastructure of these places of learning.




# *Innovation through technology*

*This philosophers' circle is not only a piece of excellent art,  
but a gathering place full of regional symbolism.*





The emphasis is not only on the highest academic attainments, but also on changing the hearths and minds of students as they embrace a future free of prejudice.

A white square graphic with rounded corners is positioned on the left side of the image, partially overlapping the text box.

The roots of the University of the Free State are local and traditional, but its ambitions are global and transformative. We are part of South Africa, Africa and the world.









Compiled by the Division  
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