



Fakulteit Ingenieurswese beleef 'n goeie 2016

Ingenieurswese se hoogtepunte in 2016 sluit in die uitbreiding van die navorsingsprofiel, verdere ondersteuning aan studente, en groot-skaalse verbetering van infrastruktuur.

Behoud van momentum van uitnemendheid

Die Fakulteit se studente het weer 'n hoë moduleslaagsyfer en graueringskoers gehandhaaf. Altesaam 494 BIng-grade, 15 nagraadse diplomas, 214 magistergrade en 36 doktorsgrade is in 2016 toegeken. Omdat uitnemendheid in ingenieurswese lank nie meer net op sterk tegniese en denkvaardighede berus nie, maar ingenieurs ook op alle vlakke goed mondeling én skriftelik moet kan kommunikeer, word die Fakulteit se studente deeglik op die gebied vaardig gemaak deur die module Professionele Kommunikasie. 'n Onderafdeling van die module behels die verbetering van leesvaardighede en -begrip deur middel van die leesprogram Labonline. In 2016 het meer as 600 studente die leesprogram deurloop, en is 'n dramatiese verbetering in studente se leesspoed, -vlak en -begrip gemeet.

In 'n verdere stap om uitnemendheid te ondersteun, het Ingenieurswese in Augustus sy ruim, moderne en doelgemaakte Studiesentrum geopen. Hierdie uitmuntende fasiliteit bied die ideale omstandighede waarin ingenieurstudente op hulle eie óf in groepe kan studeer of ontspan. Dit bestaan onder meer uit individuele werkstasies, groepsworkkamers, 'n paar rekenaarterminale en 'n informele sit- en geselsarea.

Daarbenewens het die Fakulteit die afgelope twee jaar doelgerig gewerk om inligtings- en kommunikasietegnologie in gebruik te neem, wat nou gemengde leer moontlik maak. Dosente se onderrigvaardighede word ook deurlopend opgeskerp met gereelde onderrigforums oor interessante en nuttige onderwerpe om hulle beter vir hul taak toe te rus.

Die momentum van uitnemendheid word voorts gehandhaaf deurdat die Fakulteit se navorsingsprofiel jaarliks verbeter. In die verslagjaar het die getal navorsingsgrade (MIng en PhD) weereens stewig toegeneem. Tog is dit nie net getalle wat merkbaar verbeter het nie, maar ook die internasionale profiel van veral publikasieuitsette. Die Fakulteit se Scopus-voetspoor het die afgelope vier jaar meer as verdubbel.

Om voortgesette uitnemendheid te verseker, is Ingenieurswese voortdurend op soek na maniere om die volhoubaarheid van sy werksaamhede verder te ondersteun. Akademiese sowel as ondersteuningspersoneel se werkklas was byvoorbeeld die afgelope paar jaar besonder hoog. Daadwerklike pogings die afgelope vier jaar om die werkklas te verlig, sluit in die aanstelling van 60 nuwe, meestal jong akademië. Dit het tot 'n vermindering van 20-25% in die werkklas op die akademiese korps bygedra.

Vorbereidingswerk vir die opstel van die Fakulteit se meesterplan en herinrigting van die gebouekompleks is ook in 2016 voltooi. Die omvangryke plan behels 'n algehele herinrigting, opknapping en verdigting van die fasiliteite, wat op 'n meer kostedoeltreffende wyse vir

meer studente en personelede sal voorsiening maak.

Voortgesette uitnemendheid vereis natuurlik ook volhoubare finansiering. In 2016 was die Fakulteit se derde- en vierdegeldstroominkomste 'n stewige R185,4 miljoen, byna 37% meer as in 2015. 'n Hoogtepunt was die toekenning van R30 miljoen van die Suid-Afrikaanse Nasionale Padagentskap Beperk (SANRAL) vir die voortsetting van die Leerstoel in Plaveiselingenieurswese. Selfs indien die eenmalige skenking buite rekening gelaat word, is die vergelykbare groei van 2015 tot 2016 net bo 15%, wat in die huidige stram ekonomiese klimaat steeds 'n baie goeie prestasie is.

Verbreding van toegang

Die Fakulteit maak veral erns met die Universiteit se strewe om studente van toegang te voorsien wat hulle in staat stel om suksesvol te studeer. Studente ontvang dus ruim ondersteuning op akademiese en emosionele gebied om hulle vir die uitdagende en veeleisende ingenieursprogram toe te rus. Die steun sluit onder andere in die tutorprogram vir eerstejaars wat met tegniese modules sukkel, die aanstelling

die afgelope twee jaar van twee deeltydse opvoedkundige sielkundiges wat studente op akademiese en emosionele gebied bestaan, asook die aanstelling van 'n alumna, Aphiwe Jikazana, as mentor vir eerstejaars.

Die Fakulteit wil met sy taalimplementeringsplan verseker dat taal nie 'n struikelblok vir toegang tot ingenieurstudie is nie. Die taalplan behels dat die eerste jaar (en ook die tweede jaar so ver moontlik) in parallelmedium aangebied word, en dat kennisoor-



Die Ingenieurswese gebouekompleks, wat bykans 'n halfeeu oud is, gaan die volgende dekade omvangryke herinrigting, opknapping en verdigting ondergaan om op 'n meer kostedoeltreffende wyse vir meer studente en personeel voorsiening te maak.

drag in die senior jare ten minste in Engels sal geskied, met ondersteuning aan Afrikaanssprekendes. Die Fakulteit wil steeds ewe toeganklik wees vir alle studente, ongeag of hul voorkeuronderrigtaal Afrikaans of Engels is.

Bevordering van die impak op die samelewing

Benewens sy gevestigde samewerkingsbande met en kontraknavorsing vir die ingenieursbedryf, bevorder die Fakulteit Ingenieurswese ook sy impak op die samelewing deur verskeie gemeenskapsinteraksieprojekte om die instelling se sosiale impak te versterk. Dit sluit in verskeie interaksies met die skolegemeenskap, waarvan TRAC die grootste is. Die suksesvolle program wil onderrig in wetenskap, toegepaste wiskunde en tegnologie op hoërskoolvlak ondersteun en verbeter, en leerders motiveer om beroepe in die wetenskap, ingenieurswese en tegnologie te volg. TRAC het in 2016 bykans R14 miljoen in finansiering van 'n verskeidenheid eksterne befondsers ontvang.

Vooruitskouing

In die jaar wat voorlê, sal die Fakulteit Ingenieurswese geesdriftig deelneem aan die hersiening van die Universiteit Stellenbosch se Institusionele Voorneme en Strategie om Visie 2030 te help verwesenlik. Die Fakulteit sal ook aktief meewerk om die US 'n volwaardige Afrika-universiteit te maak.

Profile: Arno van der Merwe

Inspiring all in achieving a common objective

From the Eastern Cape to the Far East - that is the interesting journey of Arno van der Merwe who started his new position as CEO and President of Beijing Benz Automotive Company (BBAC) on 1 April this year. He obtained his BEng degree in Industrial Engineering in 1994 at Stellenbosch.

Arno's family moved to the Eastern Cape when he was about eight years old and he grew up in East London, Port Elizabeth and King William's Town. His father worked as a wool classifier at Boere Makelaars Korporatief Beperk (BMKP), a company that provided services to the farming community. "My mother had great aspirations to be a doctor," he says, "but unfortunately her family could not assist in the tuition fees for that profession, so she became a teacher. For the majority of our schooling life she was at home looking after me and my two brothers who are six and eight years older than me. I would have to say that the most consistent and important person in my life then, without me actually knowing it completely at the time, was my mother."

After matriculating at Framesby High School in PE Arno had to decide on a career. "At that point in time Port Elizabeth didn't offer engineering as a field of study, they only had a technikon. So, I had to choose between getting a degree or a technical qualification. That's where the role model of the family (my mother) convinced me opt for a degree. Obviously, this was also a much bigger decision with a bigger impact on the family. I had to get a study loan, it was a much bigger issue moving to Stellenbosch. Fortunately, during that process of making the decision, I also got a bursary which enabled me in going."

The following step was to choose a field of study. "I chose Industrial Engineering by process of elimination: I was pretty sure I wasn't going to be a doctor, and accounting wasn't my passion. After we had eliminated medicine and accounting, what remained was engineering. I have always been very interested in business systems, improvement systems, efficiency, etc. So, Industrial Engineering was the best combination for me of working with business improvement, productivity improvement, working with people, but still founded in some kind of a technical foundation. Furthermore, my aptitude was always towards science and mathematics."

Regarding his student life as a Matie he says: "This whole time in my life was a highlight. I absolutely loved being a student although it was a lot of pressure and a lot of work. I really enjoyed having to be disciplined and focusing on the pressure of the work, but at the same time having the freedom to enjoy a place like Stellenbosch. I was in Helshoogte for the first year and then left to live in private digs in my second year. I really enjoyed the mix of quite a traditional disciplined environment and at the same time the era of emancipation with a large alternative movement emerging and various thought leaders coming to the fore in the early 90s leading up to the change in government. I loved that time. It was a great formative time in my life and a very exciting time in the history of South Africa."

Arno started his career as Logistics Engineer at Mercedes-Benz South Africa (MBSA) at the age of 25. For the next twenty years, he rapidly moved up the ladder at his company, filling nine new positions over time, the most senior three being Manufacturing Manager: Passenger Car Assembly (2006), Executive Director Manufacturing (2011) and CEO and Executive Director Manufacturing (2014).

He says: "For a number of years I have now been in more generic leadership roles, rather than a pure engineering or technical role - from 2011 when I went into the plant management role and 2014 into a chief executive role for MBSA and now as CEO and President of Beijing Benz Automotive Company (BBAC). What I really like about this type of work is that the task is how to organise people both from a motivational and a sense of purpose point of view, but also from a systemic business system and cooperation perspective. And coupled to that are the aspects that actually

make the business successful. It brings a whole bunch of different things together in one task and that is what I have really been enjoying over the last couple of years."

As leader he believes in creating an environment where colleagues can feel confident. "When people feel insecure, they are not confident and are not bringing their best to the task. It is important to create a company culture where people are feeling confident: They feel secure in what they say, in how they raise opinions, how they table problems and opportunities and what they think about ideas. I really don't think it is the right way to lead through any form of intimidation or fear. I really think the right way to lead an organisation is to give a sense of purpose and vision and then to make sure to create an environment where people do not feel that they have to politically position themselves in a particular way to make career progress. Insecurity is a barrier to progress, so that is what you have to get rid of."



Arno van der Merwe,
President of Beijing Benz Automotive Company (BBAC).

Arno explains that his sense of fulfilment in his career comes from those moments when every single participant in the bigger organisation, every employee, understands their own sense of worth and purpose.

"When we can put aside all the inherently human competitive aspects of trying to be better or tougher than the next person, and rather working together harmoniously because we understand that we are joined in achieving a common objective - those are the moments that drive me. It is in these moments that employees are fulfilled and having fun, because they are recognised for the value they bring."

This man who likes to inspire those around him, draws a lot of strength from his family, especially his wife, Lucille. "The most important people in my

life are without a doubt my wife and my two children. We are a tight-knit family and we draw a lot of energy from each other. We have a very open relationship and speak to each other about all the important things.

"I absolutely love the ocean, a great equalizer and a powerful and mighty place, where all are on the same level. I have therefore always enjoyed ocean sports and, to some extent, also adrenaline sports, because it speaks to and tests a part of my personal make-up that does not get tested at other times: where you have to make quick decisions about what you can and cannot do.

"I have a few personal mottos: *No risk, no fun* and *Smooth seas don't make good sailors*. Also, *Never, ever give up*. *EVER*. Resilience is an important characteristic to have. When you are having a tough time, you have to celebrate having a tough time, the lessons you are learning and the depth of experience you are having at that point in time. You cannot delay happiness and satisfaction until a later stage. Things are as they are. I am not naïve about the fact that there are difficult cycles and times in people's lives and that these are real and challenging. But I strongly believe that if you want to have a good life, you have to escape being caught in a cycle of emotions and feelings instead of focusing on what your life is at that point in time and living it."



The tight-knit Van der Merwe family:
Jaimee, Arno, Lucille and Sebastian
at Beihai Park, Beijing, China.

Radio browsing supports UN relief and development programmes in Uganda

Radio chat and phone-in programmes are a popular forum for the discussion of topics of local and community interest. The content of such programmes can be utilised to determine the challenges faced by a community, and thereby ascertain whether human development goals have been met and in the management of natural disasters.



Prof Thomas Niesler.

In support of Stellenbosch University's (SU) aim to become a major role player in Africa, Prof Thomas Niesler, of the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, joined forces with Pulse Lab Kampala, one of three hubs of the United Nations (UN) Global Pulse programme, in a research project that aimed to develop a prototype tool with which the content of public radio

broadcasts in Uganda could be analysed in order to reveal a detailed and current picture of the priorities and concerns of rural Ugandans. The project kicked off in October 2015, and its ultimate aim is to serve as an early warning system that aids humanitarian and disaster relief efforts by the UN.

In countries with good internet connectivity, social media is the most popular tool of communication. Consequently, the analysis of social media discussions is widely used to identify views and concerns regarding matters affecting societies. These trends can then be used effectively as early warning systems, for monitoring, and to ascertain if development goals have been met. However, in areas or countries with poor internet connectivity, such as rural Uganda, few people have access to social media.

A promising alternative for determining and analysing the views of rural Ugandans lies in the country's more than 250 local and community radio stations. Approximately 7,5 million words are spoken daily on such radio stations. Some of this speech is spoken by listeners phoning in to discuss matters of serious concern, such as outbreaks of disease, food shortages, or natural disasters. The above-mentioned collaborative research programme with the United Nations provides a technological tool with which such radio discussions can be monitored to obtain information that can be used to inform targeted UN relief and development programmes.

Computer speech recognition researchers, Prof Thomas Niesler, and his two postdoctoral fellows, Dr Raghav Menon and Dr Armin Saeb, make up the project's SU team. They have developed software that uses speech-to-text technology to convert recorded speech into text for three languages, for Ugandan English and two indigenous dialects, Luganda and Acholi. This multilingual approach is very important as it allows more inclusive monitoring. About 90% of Uganda's population lives in rural areas and many of these speakers do not speak English,

but use their mother tongue when phoning in to local radio stations.

To develop the software for application to radio content, audio files had to be transcribed manually to create in-context content examples of radio conversations. A pronunciation dictionary indicating the most common sequences of sounds used to pronounce each word was also compiled. The transcriptions and the dictionary represent the basis for a multi-lingual acoustic model of all sounds in each of the three languages, based on deep neural networks. Finally, a language model, which estimates of how likely each word is to be spoken in sequence, is developed. Other components serve to filter out music and other non-speech sounds and ensure that only speech is processed by the system.



Dr Raghav Menon and Dr Armin Saeb.

After speech-to-text processing, techniques used in Big Data analytics are used to achieve automated search whereby the radio content can be screened for certain keywords or topics.

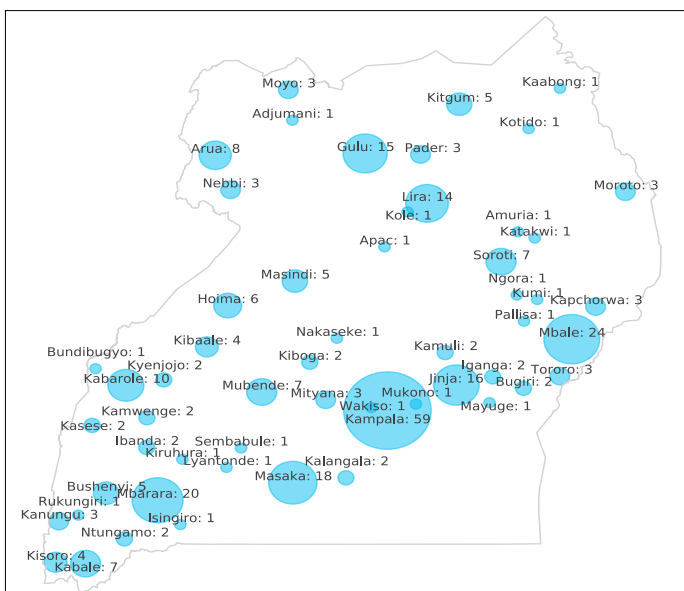
To capture the radio broadcasts, small monitoring devices based on the low-cost Rasp-

berry Pi computer, were developed and installed in locations within the broadcast area of the targeted radio station. One device is able to capture multiple broadcasts. This captured data is sent to the Pulse Lab in Kampala where the past 24 hours of broadcast radio is continually examined using the developed system. The detection of certain keywords, such as floods, epidemic, cholera, refugees, can indicate that further investigation is needed. In this way, it is possible to monitor topics relating to humanitarian and developmental matters that are related to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted in 2015 by the United Nations. The SDGs are aimed at ending poverty, protecting the planet and ensuring prosperity for all. Some examples of topics screened for by the currently operational system are gender-based violence, losses as a result of localised disasters and the quality of public service delivery.

In essence, the developed system transforms public radio discussions into a Big Data source that can be mined for information. The information provided by the system includes not only the topics themselves, but also time, location, and trends. Data visualisations are generated from the analysis of this information to improve their value in decision making. However, care is taken to ensure that individuals or groups cannot be identified from these representations. Although public radio discussions are used, strict privacy of individuals and groups is maintained throughout. No raw data is released and data that has been analysed, is anonymised.

"It is very satisfying being involved in a research project that is actually making a difference in the lives of ordinary people," says Prof Thomas Niesler. He and his team are in the process of improving and refining their system, in order to make it more accurate and effective.

Number of FM transmitters in Uganda by district.



Further information:
<http://radio.unglobalpulse.net>
Proceedings of ICASSP 2017
Interspeech 2017

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Faculty's new Dean - Prof Wikus van Niekerk

Prof Wikus van Niekerk took over as Dean of the Faculty of Engineering in July this year.

Prof Van Niekerk is a Professor in the Department of Mechanical and Mechatronic Engineering and was the Director of the Centre for Renewable and Sustainable Energy Studies at Stellenbosch University since 2006. He is regularly consulted by industry on a variety of areas including renewable energy systems and technology; solar, wind and ocean energy; and energy policy and research strategy.

Academic qualifications:

- BEng (Mechanical) cum laude Stellenbosch University (1986).
- MEng (Mechanical) cum laude University of Pretoria (1989).
- PhD (Mechanical Engineering) University of California, Berkeley (1994).
- EMBA with distinction, Graduate School of Business, University of Cape Town (2017).

His PhD was on the active control of transient noise transmission. On 14 July this year, when he received his Executive MBA degree with distinction, he also received the Graduate School of Business Gold Medal Award for high professional performance and outstanding achievement as top achiever in his EMBA class. The title of his EMBA dissertation was *A Blueprint for a Sustainable, Greenfield Engineering Faculty in the Context of a Developing Country*.

After holding the Sasol Chair in Vehicle Engineering at the University of Pretoria he moved to Stellenbosch University in 2000. At Stellenbosch, he has been Head of the Mechanics Division, Chair of the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Director of the Institute for Thermodynamics and Mechanics. As Director of the Centre for Renewable and Sustainable Energy Studies he played a leading role to establish research, education and training programmes in renewable energy and influence funding and policy priorities on the national level.

Prof Van Niekerk is a fellow of the South African Academy of Engineers, the Southern African Acoustics Institute, and a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the Sustainable Energy Society of Southern Africa. He is a fellow and the President of the South African Institution of Mechanical Engineering and was a Board Member of the International Solar Energy Society. He is a member of the Advisory Board of the Fraunhofer Chile Research Center in Santiago.

Regarding his appointment as Dean, Prof Van Niekerk says: "My key contribution as the incoming Dean of Engineering will be to increase the outward focus of the Faculty and to improve the interaction of the Faculty with both the private and public sectors in South Africa and the rest of the world."



*Engineering's new Dean,
Prof Wikus van Niekerk.*

He continues: "The Faculty is a well-functioning faculty with an excellent reputation, nationally and internationally. The fact that the Faculty was able to complete the last two ECSA accreditation visits with no 'deficiencies' being filed, the only faculty in the country to achieve this, attests to the quality of our undergraduate programmes and the dedication of the staff responsible for it. Overall, the Faculty is a very productive, well-run and successful organisation."

According to him there are a number of areas on which a new Dean will need to focus to ensure the sustainability of the Faculty in future:

- To negotiate with senior management of the University for an equitable share of resources for the Faculty from the University's central budget and other resources.
- To improve the interaction and support by industry for the Faculty and its various research and training programmes.
- To develop key international partnerships with partner universities and funding agencies.
- To grow the third and fourth income streams of the Faculty to support the activities of all the departments and research groups, while maintaining the quality undergraduate offering and the level of research outputs.

Prof Van Niekerk feels that some areas where efficiencies can be improved and cost reduced include reducing the ratio of support staff to academic staff in the University, improving cooperation and coordination between faculties and support services, and assisting the University in some of its operational activities for instance in the field of energy efficiency and renewable energy.

He views funding from international sources and research grants as very attractive due to the currency exchange rate and favourable cost structures to do research in South Africa. However, these grants need to be pursued in a coordinated way by larger, collaborative research teams in the Faculty with strong links to other international research groups. Identifying a number of flagship projects or research areas where academics from different departments, or even faculties, participate in multi-disciplinary teams will be a first step towards building strong internationally recognised research teams that can then apply for international funding.

"As Dean, my role will be to support the academic and research staff to pursue these opportunities while establishing a culture of cooperation in the Faculty. I look forward to working with the students and staff of the Faculty, our colleagues in other faculties as well as the University's senior management to reach Stellenbosch University's Vision 2030."

Meet the new Dean

On Tuesday, 19 September 2017 the Faculty of Engineering plans to host an informal cocktail event in Sandton for its alumni. During this event Matie engineers will have the opportunity to meet the new Dean, Prof Wikus van Niekerk, build or strengthen business networks and reconnect with their class mates.

Do take note of the date.

An invitation with more details regarding this event will be e-mailed in August to Engineering alumni who are on the electronic distribution list.

Contact person for this event: Marvin Koopman marvin@sun.ac.za

Ingenieur se erflating aan US grootste individuele een ooit

Die Universiteit Stellenbosch het een van sy grootste individuele skenkings nog ontvang – 'n bedrag van R194,6 miljoen. Dié skenking is in die vorm van 'n erflating deur wyle mnr DW (Dirk) Ackermann, 'n ingenieur van beroep.

"'n Belegging in die toekoms van 'n nuwe geslag Maties." So beskryf prof Wim de Villiers, US-Rektor en Visekanselier, die skenking aan die Universiteit. "Dit is vir seker een van die mees betekenisvolle skenkings wat die universiteit nog van 'n individu ontvang het. Die US-gemeenskap is baie dankbaar en het regtig groot waardering vir mnr Ackermann vir hierdie besondere erflating," het prof De Villiers gesê.

Die erflating, in die vorm van 'n aandeelportefeulje ter waarde van R8,4 miljoen, is reeds in 2006 deur mnr Ackermann aan die Universiteit Stellenbosch bemaak. Mnr Ackermann is 'n aantal jare gelede oorlede.

"Die waarde van die aandeelportefeulje het intussen van R8,4 miljoen na R194,6 miljoen gegroei," vertel mnr Hugo Steyn van die US se Ontwikkeling en Alumni-betrekkinge kantoor. "Onderworpe aan die voorwaardes van mnr Ackermann se erflating, is hierdie skenking onlangs ten volle aan die Universiteit oorgedra.

Soos bepaal in sy testament, sal die Universiteit hierdie bemaking gebruik om die DW Ackermann Beursfonds op die been te bring tot voordeel van verdienstelike studente in die dissiplines van Elektriese en Elektroniese Ingenieurswese, die kapitaal dienooreenkomstig belê en die inkomste gebruik vir beurse wat jaarliks toegeken sal word in terme van die kriteria bepaal in sy testament.

"Die fonds sal as 'n skenkersfonds bestuur word en volhoubaar aangewend word om baie studente in die toekoms te ondersteun. Die fonds sal binnekort beskikbaar wees en na konsultasie met die Fakulteit sal beurse heel moontlik reeds vanaf 2018 toegeken kan word," het mnr Steyn gesê.

Totale skenkings aan die US in 2016 het met 53% toegeneem van die vorige jaar, en het ook die hoeveelheid skenkings wat in 2014 ontvang is, oorskry.

"Die aanname dat alle US-studente uit welgestelde families kom, is nie korrek nie. Meer as 'n derde van ons nuutste gegradueerdes het een of ander vorm van finansiële ondersteuning tydens hul studies ontvang," het prof De Villiers bygevoeg. "Dit is fassinerend om te sien hoe dit oor tyd verander het. In 2000 het 28% Maties finansiële ondersteuning ontvang. Teen 2014, het die syfer gestyg tot 38%. En verlede jaar was 41% van ons studente uit die sogenaamde verlore middelgroep ('missing middle') – huishoudings met 'n gesamentlike inkomste van minder as R600 000 per jaar."

Aan die begin van 2017 het die US R1,1 miljoen in filantropiese skenkings ontvang, geoormerk om die finansiële behoeftes van studente aan te spreek. Dié skenkings is in ooreenstemming met die doelwit en rol van die "Register All"-beurse wat deur die Studenteraad geadmistreer word.

Die US het in die 2016 akademiese jaar drie nuwe rekords opgestel. Finale syfers toon dat die Universiteit altesaam 8 348 kwalifikasies toegeken het, 5,6% meer as die vorige jaar. Dit sluit 1 468 meestersgrade in – die meeste nog vir een jaar. Dieselfde geld vir die aantal doktorsgrade. Altesaam 278 doktorsgrade is toegeken, waarvan 47% (teenoor 39% in 2015), aan swart, bruin, Indiër en Asiër-studente toegeken is.

"Dit bevestig die US se waardevolle bydra as 'n nasionale bate en dit stuur 'n sterk sein aan potensiële skenkers wat 'n belang het by voortgesette studentesukses en 'n stabiele uitset van gegradueerdes vir die ekonomie wil sien. Onlangse navorsing wys daarop dat ons goed daarin vaar om donateurs te behou en die hoeveelheid geld wat hulle skenk, te vermeerder," het prof De Villiers gesê.

Engineering students excel

The Faculty of Engineering is extremely proud that one of its students, Riccardo Swanepoel, received Stellenbosch University's Chancellor's Medal for 2016. Mr Swanepoel, who was awarded his BEng (Chemical) degree cum laude in December, was recognised with this prestigious award for his exceptional academic record. He maintained an average of 94,1% over four years and made history by becoming the first chemical engineering student to score 100% for his design project. Furthermore, he achieved 93% for his final-year project, also the highest mark ever in this Department. Mr Swanepoel started his postgraduate studies in 2017 under the supervision of Prof Cara Schwarz.



Jana Rossouw with an average of 80,6% (left) and Marina Kamper with an average of 85,5% were the two top-performing BEng students in 2016 in Mechatronic and Mechanical Engineering respectively.



Prof Corne Schutte, Chair Industrial Engineering, with Mattie Landman, the best BEng (Industrial) student in 2016 with an average of 85,9%.

Ma se kos met 'n kinkel by nuwe kafeteria



Was jy een van die Matie ingenieurstudente wat by die geliefde Plakkies Kafeteria jou honger gestil en jou dors geles het? Wél, daardie plekkie waarna jy soms met heimwee terugdink, is nou vervang met 'n moderne, ruim kafeteria genaamd *The Chalk Board* wat sedert 24 Februarie vanjaar in bedryf is. Dit word deur C3 Food Services bestuur.

Vicky Voigt, spysenierbestuurder, sê "Ons verskaf 'Ma se Kos' met 'n kinkel. Daar is 'n verskeidenheid gesonde, voedsame en gebalanseerde maaltye sowel as 'gryp-en-gaan-versnaperinge' wat aan elke smaakvereiste voldoen."

Me Voigt het 'n span van byns 40 personeellede onder haar toesig, onder andere 3 assistent bestuurders, kokke, kelners en ondersteuningpersoneel. Om aan te pas by die bedrywige program van ingenieurstudente is *The Chalkboard* se bedryfsure ook heelwat langer as voorheen. Gedurende die kwartaal staan die span reeds vanaf 07:00 reg vir studente en personeel en sien om na hul knibbelbehoefes tot 22:00 in die aand. Daarna is daar 'n span wat deur die nag kos voorberei vir die volgende dag.

The Chalk Board word goed ondersteun en het reeds 'n goeie reputasie opgebou vir lekker maaltye en veral die heerlike koffie wat te koop is.

Links bo: Die toonbank waar etebestellings geplaas word.
Links onder: Gesellige gesprekke in die ruim kafeteria.



Regs: Die koffiestasie is uiters gewild.



Open Day 2017



True to tradition, personnel and students of the Faculty of Engineering worked together to make this year's Open Day (25 February) a great success.

Span sê totsiens aan prof Hansie Knoetze

Die dekaansafdeling het 29 Junie afskeid geneem van prof Hansie Knoetze, wie se vyfjaartermyn as dekaan einde Junie 2017 geëindig het. Hy keer terug na sy tuisdepartement, Prosesingenieurswese, en is vir die volgende paar maande met navorsingsvergunning.



Agter van links is Ulrich Smith (tegniese beampte), August Engelbrecht (studentewerwer), Minnaar Pienaar (fakulteitsbeampte), Liesel Koch (korporatiewe bemarker), Tanya Ficker (nagraadse koördineerder), Clinton Botha (assistent), prof Hansie Knoetze en Jimmy Abrahams (assistent).
Voor van links is Enzo D'Aguanno (fakulteitsbestuurder), Abigail Lackay (MH-praktisyn), Portia Adonis (ontvangs) en Avril Ford (administratiewe beampte).



Centenary celebrations in 2018

Stellenbosch University will celebrate its Centenary in 2018. As Stellenbosch University prepares for its 2018 Maties Alumni Homecoming Weekend from 1 to 4 March next year, the Alumni Relations Division invites you to connect with them via their social media platforms.



They are putting together an interesting array of tailor-made activities, especially selected for alumni who are planning a visit to their alma mater during the Centenary celebrations.

Contact: alumni@sun.ac.za