



UNIVERSITEIT
STELLENBOSCH
UNIVERSITY

Partner with the

Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences



Redeveloping
the Van der Sterr
Building





EDUCATING talented people

is the business of Stellenbosch University.

It has been for almost a century.

But our world is changing.

Now, our university stands on the cusp
of great innovations in learning and
teaching.

JOIN US

as we create a new future.

Stellenbosch University, a place of discovery and excellence

“It was the best of times, it was the worst of times...” must be one of the most famous phrases in world literature. This opening line to *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens is also an apt description of the current higher education climate – not only in South Africa, but globally.

As the Information Age unfolds and the world economy becomes ever more knowledge based, a good education is in greater demand than ever. And remarkable technological advances have both broadened and deepened the learning and teaching experience at tertiary level, as well as the fundamentally important research taking place at the academic cutting edge.

Yet, at the same time, universities the world over are under enormous pressure to cope with rising demand in the face of dwindling public funding. We find ourselves having to do more with less – serving greater numbers of students with fewer resources at our disposal. We have to maintain high levels of excellence to stay globally competitive, never forgetting to be relevant to local needs as well.

But every problem can be seen as an opportunity to come up with innovative solutions – and the greater the challenge, the larger the scope for ingenuity and creativity. This is exactly how our Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences and our Division of Facilities Management responded to the devastating fire in one of our buildings in February 2015.

Out of the ashes was born the plan not only to fix the damage but to improve the University’s ability to be a place of discovery and excellence for both students and staff. This is being done by expanding the building to accommodate more people, equipping it with 21st-century technology, and minimising its environmental footprint in the interest of environmental sustainability. Care is also being taken to broaden access – not only to the physical structure, but also for talented students with financial constraints.

The project has now entered the stage where we are inviting others to become part of this exciting and worthwhile venture. Education is the bedrock of society, and your contribution could help place the next generation on a solid footing going into the future.

Prof Wim de Villiers

Rector and Vice-Chancellor



“But every problem can be seen as an opportunity to come up with innovative solutions – and the greater the challenge the larger the scope for ingenuity and creativity.”

The redevelopment of the Van der Sterr Building

The Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences is the largest faculty at the University and a leading faculty in many respects. With almost 50% of its 8 000 students in postgraduate programmes, the Faculty contributes significantly to the University's position as the leading research university in South Africa. The Faculty also has a very extensive programme in teaching and learning for this large student body and the 1 500 new first years that arrive in Stellenbosch annually.

We aim to broaden access to students and staff from all communities. To realise this, we have already broadened the language offering to include all prospective South African students. Programme renewal also helps to broaden access: at the beginning of 2016, seven new programmes, including a BCom degree in International Business, were introduced.

New-generation students require 24-hour connectivity, learning that is integrated with living areas and the enrichment of the learning experience through the use of a variety of technologies freely and seamlessly. Teaching and learning initiatives have therefore focused on the large-scale expansion of Wi-Fi technology in lecture halls and the introduction of the latest information and communication practices, such as blended learning, the utilisation and expansion of mobile technology in classrooms and electronic assessment. The combination of the expanded language offering, the new programmes and the technological modernisation of our beautiful but old buildings is, however, placing increasing pressure on the Faculty's facilities. These pressures were exacerbated by the fire in the Van der Sterr Building in 2015, which caused extensive damage.

The reconstruction of the Van der Sterr Building has already started. Instead of simply restoring the building, we decided to upgrade it significantly, not just by modernising existing spaces, but by adding new auditoria to replace the destroyed Van der Sterr Hall. These improvements will add significant office space, valuable additional seating capacity and improve the quality of the teaching and learning spaces.

Our track record of more than 90 years of excellent academic programmes, relevant research, and collaboration with the community leaves me optimistic that we will serve an even broader community with distinction for years to come. Please partner with us to make this objective attainable.

Prof Stan du Plessis

Dean: Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences



“Instead of simply restoring the building, we decided to upgrade it significantly, not just by modernising existing spaces, but by adding new auditoria to replace the destroyed Van der Sterr Hall.”

Invest in the School of Accountancy

The School of Accountancy at Stellenbosch University specialises in the education of professional accountants. The largest programme offered by the School is the BAcc programme, which prepares students to become Chartered Accountants (SA).

The School's strategy in teaching and learning aligns with the competency-based education and training approach of the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA), as evidenced by the fact that SAICA has consistently awarded the School its highest accreditation status. SAICA has moreover commended the School for its innovation and strong management. Our lecturers have extensive experience in their disciplines and demonstrate a deep understanding of the professional programmes that they teach. In comparison with other accounting environments at South African universities, the School also has excellent levels of innovative research and extensive publications to reflect this thinking.

The outstanding undergraduate throughput rate and the exceptional results of former students writing external professional examinations underline the quality of teaching offered by the School in a very concrete and visible way, and the quality of students that the School attracts. In SAICA's Initial Test of Competence (ITC) early in 2016, the BAccHons class of 2015 achieved the best pass rate – 94% – among the 14 SAICA-accredited universities nationally. Given the number of educational options available to prospective chartered accountants, reputation is of the utmost importance in attracting top students as well as lecturers of the highest quality. The excellent achievement by our BAccHons students in the January 2016 ITC – despite the fire in 2015 that caused extensive damage to the building that accommodates the School of Accountancy – substantiates the strong reputation of the School.

In order to sustain the Van der Sterr Building project, the Faculty increasingly relies on donations and sponsorships. I therefore kindly invite you to help us secure a brighter future for all our current and our future students through investing in the School of Accountancy.

Prof Pierre Olivier

Director: School of Accountancy and Vice-Dean



“In SAICA’s Initial Test of Competence (ITC) early in 2016, the BAccHons class of 2015 achieved the best pass rate – 94% – among the 14 SAICA-accredited universities nationally.”

Join us in integrating old and new

The Van der Sterr Building is at the heart of the Faculty and houses the School of Accountancy and the departments of Statistics and Actuarial Science and of Logistics. Its learning spaces are used by all the students of the Faculty.

On 22 February 2015, a significant part of the building was destroyed in a fire. While the fire left the Faculty with many logistical difficulties, our main concern was to accommodate the students in alternative lecture halls as soon as possible.

A year has passed and we have restored most of the infrastructure to what it was before the fire. We have also, however, used this opportunity to expand the building to accommodate more students and to introduce more efficient learning spaces that incorporate new technologies.

The expansion of the Van der Sterr Building will house various new lecture halls, postgraduate laboratories and computer user areas and will cater for a more interactive learning experience. It will also house additional offices for faculty staff, with more open work spaces to facilitate interaction between academics and students.

We are thus restoring the Van der Sterr Building to its former glory, while also expanding it to accommodate the requirements of the growing student numbers, the additional language offering and the new technologies.

Both the integration of the existing facility with its traditional character and the expansion of the original building are done with great care and sensitivity to create a seamless transition between old and new.





Invest in future-focussed facilities

- **New lecture hall complex**

The Van der Sterr Building has a courtyard that, in the past, was used for recreational purposes. The new addition – a triple-volume building that will contain teaching space – will be constructed in this courtyard. The new building will improve the Faculty's capacity to teach. More venues will also be available for the undertaking of tests and examinations, while the additional space will allow the University to accommodate classes until older lecture rooms across campus are refurbished. The new lecture rooms will consist of two 300-seat auditoria, one 250-seater and one 80-seater.

- **Learning technology**

The new auditoria will serve as catalysts for the introduction of the latest information and communication practices, such as blended learning, mobile-friendly classrooms and the large-scale expansion of Wi-Fi technologies, which will also be available in the offices. Power outlets will be inserted at every second seat to offer students uninterrupted connectivity when attending long lecture sessions or consecutive classes.

- **Improved access**

Many of the historical buildings on campus have their own unique challenges, with some offering very limited or no access to those with mobility constraints. Improving access was therefore a high priority when the floor plans were drawn up for the rebuild. Most of the auditoria will be located on the ground floor and will have full wheelchair access, with enclosed passageways linking the existing building with the new building. Both the Van der Sterr and the extension will be fitted with elevators with wheelchair access to ensure full access to all the floors.

- **Staff wellness**

To accommodate the needs of a modern workforce, the staff facilities of the redeveloped Van der Sterr Building will include the following:


- Units allocated to cleaning staff, caretakers and nightshift workers will have bathroom facilities with showers and areas where the staff can store their valuables, enjoy a meal and rest.
- Shower facilities in the new bathrooms will allow staff to incorporate fitness into their daily routines.
- Nursing rooms with electrical outlets have been added to the floor plan to provide a private and comfortable space for lactating mothers.

- **Security**

All the offices will be on the upper floors, where there will be access control. The buildings will be equipped with security cameras at all the entrance points and fitted with smoke detectors.

- **Green building**

Great care is being taken to ensure that the construction of the new building has as little impact on the environment as possible. The air-conditioning system of the Van der Sterr Building will therefore be changed to a water-cooling air-conditioning system, which will operate at a significantly lower pressure and use much less energy. It will be joined to that of the Schumann Building, enabling the air-conditioning function of the two buildings to be activated from one central station at a reduced cost.

An architectural rendering of a modern building featuring a prominent glass-enclosed triple-volume addition. The building has a clean, minimalist design with light-colored walls and dark window frames. The glass structure is a tall, narrow tower that reflects the surrounding environment. In the foreground, there is a landscaped courtyard with paved walkways, several trees (including palm trees), and a few people walking. A circular callout with a dashed blue border contains the text 'Triple-volume addition with lecture facilities.'

*Triple-volume
addition with
lecture facilities.*

Fostering corporate leaders and entrepreneurs of the future

While improving our campus, we also recognise that many undergraduate students face significant financial obstacles en route to the successful completion of their tertiary qualifications. The **Project Zero** initiative was launched by the Faculty in 2015 to assist talented students by means of bursaries.

The goal of the initiative is to support the strategic objectives of Stellenbosch University and to extend the diversity profile of the Faculty. The bursary offer which is made specifically in the Faculty on the basis of academic merit and is available only to South African students from the coloured, black and Indian population groups. The bursary is the equivalent of the full cost of tuition, including internet fees, photocopying, printing and an R8 000 textbook and stationary allowance, as well as residence fees and meals.

The aim of the Project Zero bursary is to ensure that the students who have been selected on the basis of their achievements will have the assurance of no fees payable in each undergraduate academic year. By offering bursaries to these talented students, we ensure that our Faculty attracts the best students, while maintaining our commitment to excellence.

The scope of Project Zero depends greatly on collaboration with our external stakeholders to leverage the funds that we are budgeting internally. All contributions, no matter how small, will be sincerely welcomed and appreciated.



The dean of the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences, Prof Stan du Plessis (left), and the chairperson of the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science, Prof Willie Conradie (right), with some of the Project Zero bursary recipients.

Your opportunity to partner with us

The Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences welcomes approximately 1 500 new students every year. With a student population of 8 000 for 2016, the need for additional teaching spaces is right at the top of our priority list.

The new Van der Sterr extension will allow us to equip our students and lecturers with facilities that will make them eager to be part of this Faculty and prepare the students for the business environment. We want the revamped Van der Sterr complex to be accessible to all students and to offer 24-hour connectivity.

The complex will house the School of Accountancy and the departments of Statistics and Actuarial Science and of Logistics. The new addition will have

- 19 lecture halls and rooms with a total seating capacity of 3 112;
- two computer user areas with a capacity of 178; and
- postgraduate laboratories for 60 students.

The facilities will be utilised by all the students of the Faculty.

Your opportunity to partner with us

Funding opportunity	Funding required	Notes
Full naming rights of entire complex	R65 million	These rights will follow the University policy on naming rights.
Naming of lecture halls	R3,75 million per lecture hall (minimum of 10 years)	Four lecture halls will be part of the new lecture hall complex and will serve mainly the BAcc and BAccHons students.
Large name display in foyer	R750 000 each (minimum of 10 years, with annual instalments, if preferred)	Four companies will have the opportunity to obtain the rights to a double-volume name display in the foyer at the main entrance to the new lecture hall complex.
Smaller name display option	R25 000 each (minimum of 5 years, with annual instalments, if preferred)	Firms will have the opportunity to obtain the rights to a small name display in the various reception areas of the new lecture halls.
Project Zero bursaries	All contributions, whether one-off, monthly or annual, will be welcomed.	Project Zero is an initiative to reduce to zero the actual cost of studying at Stellenbosch University. The Project Zero bursaries, in conjunction with the University's recruitment and merit bursaries, cover deserving students' tuition, accommodation and living expenses.



Large name displays in the foyer of the main entrance to the new lecture hall complex

Small name displays of donors





Project leaders



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