

SUNStudent

SUNStudent CELEBRATED FIRST PROJECT MILESTONE BLUEPRINT DOCUMENTS FOR PHASE 1 IMPLEMENTATION SIGNED-OFF

The SUNStudent project achieved its first milestone amidst the COVID 19 pandemic. Even though everyone was in lockdown, nothing was going to halt celebrations to acknowledge and express thanks to all those involved in achieving this major milestone. The celebrations went ahead in the form of “virtual cocktail parties” over 2 evenings – 20 April for Admissions and Recruitment and 21 April for Catalog and Textbook ordering. Ronel Retief, the project sponsor and MC at both events welcomed everybody and thanked all the stakeholders for their role in achieving this huge milestone.

The accountable persons for each of the capabilities as well as members of the Steering Committee and Project Management Committee expressed their appreciation by means of a personal address to the responsible and consulted people that formed part of the blueprint sign-off process for these capabilities.

The accolades say it all:

“As a member of the PMC I have learnt what a huge team effort this is, how complex and multi-faceted the project is, how fundamental to the future digitally-enabled university SUNStudent will be. But mostly I have once more become aware how important people are, their wellbeing, their motivation, their willingness, their attitude - this is NOT, I repeat NOT, a technology project”. – Ralph Pina

“We salute and commend each of you, for the long hours attending sessions at STIAS, debating in several smaller work sessions, challenging each other as colleagues and eventually get to a collective agreed final blueprint”. – Jan du Toit

“To the PMC (and I include the Core team members here as well). Thank you for your contribution to the team effort. We can already adopt Nike’s slogan – We make it happen! We supplement one another with our set of skills, experience, positivity and enthusiasm to stay focused on the project goals.” – Freek Truter

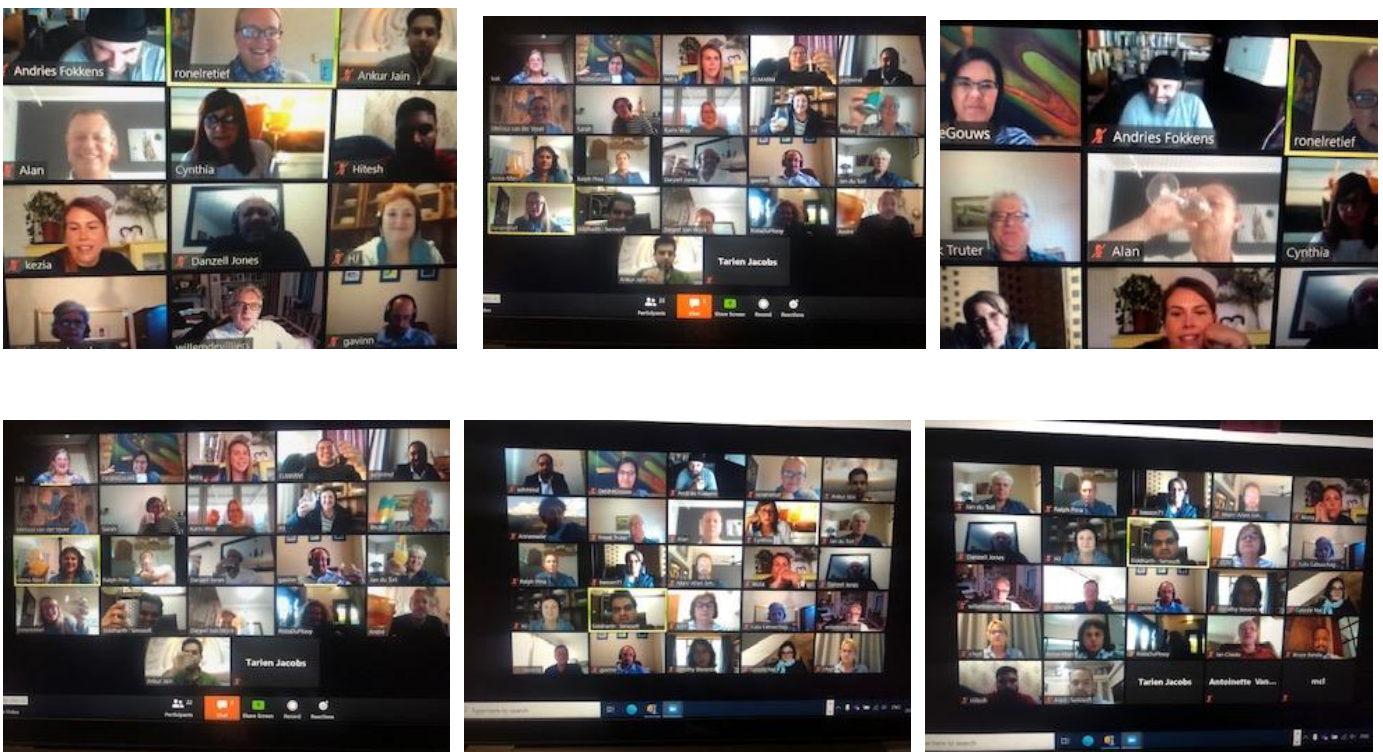
“It seems that big things are happening during 2020, not only the sign-off of the first SUNStudent Blueprint documents, but also a dramatic acceleration to establish an on-line learning ecosystem at Stellenbosch University. I believe all these happenings fit together in a bigger picture of what our University can be and can offer. Therefore, again a big thank to our colleagues who make all this happen.” – Christelle Feyt

“At the start of the project, we used to say that we at Serosoft are not an external team but an extension of the team at SU. Over the last year, by the way we have been welcomed and treated by everyone, we now say we are one team! I have been the face of these workshops, but it has been a very strong team effort

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from day one. I would like to thank Freek, Jan, and Anna-Mari for coordinating and conducting all the workshops. I would also like to thank the entire core team of the project for participating and giving detailed insights. Special thanks to all stakeholders from the Stellenbosch, Tygerberg, Bellville, and Saldanha campuses who worked on these capabilities.” – Siddharth Batjatiya

Prof Wim de Villiers thanked and acknowledged all involved in what is seen as one of the key strategic projects of the University. “SUNStudent is one of the enablers that will position the University to embrace the inevitable drive towards increased digitalisation, which has now gained momentum due to the COVID-19 pandemic that has forced staff and students to work remotely using various digital platforms. Congratulations on having achieved this first and important milestone!”



Virtual cocktail parties with a “Blue” dress code (associated with the Blueprint document sign-off) . Every person attended with their choice of a SUNStudent Blueprint inspired cocktail (Blueprint frosties, Project Sunshine mocktail, G&T integration, Hot Indore to name but a few) in the hand.

What is happening next on the project?

There will be 4 implementation phases. The signed-off Blueprint documents that were celebrated as the first project milestone forms part of the phase 1 implementation. Serosoft has started the configuration of Academia based on the phase 1 signed off blueprints and we are looking forward to seeing demos of these capabilities in August 2020. The capabilities that form part of the phase 2 implementation is currently in the Blueprint review

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process. The final sign-off date for these Blueprint documents is scheduled for end of June 2020 with Phase 3 at the end of Aug 2020.

We trust that the next celebrations will be held face-to-face again!

Did you know that you can address your need for more SUNStudent project information including the Blueprint process, high level project plan, terminologies and FAQ's by visiting the SUNStudent website at:

<http://www.sun.ac.za/english/SUNStudent/Pages/default.aspx>

Do you have any questions? Please make use of the project email address for any feedback or queries you might have: sunstudent@sun.ac.za