



# JANUS

December  
Desember  
2020  
Uitgawe  
Edition  
19



## A YEAR LIKE NONE OTHER

This year's edition of *Janus* takes a special place in our archives. It is dedicated to all those who persevered in probably the most disruptive year 26 Crozier Street has ever witnessed. But in taking stock, the lesson is plain for all to see: Journalism stays the course, never mind the challenges.

Our coverage includes glimpses of the BC (Before Covid) era, like the carefree days of the Wordfees in March, before the campus was evacuated. We are also reminded of the well-deserved award for lifelong achievement bestowed on Prof George Claassen, extraordinary professor, by Stellenbosch University for his pioneering work in, among others, Science Communication.

Then coronavirus struck, and when we looked up from our computer screens, half of the year was gone. The moment when the honours class of 2020 braved conditions to return to campus on 20 July is memorialised as a tribute to them. They also tell us in their own words what the year was like, and we cannot thank them enough for their ability to adapt, and willingness to carry on.

Similarly deserving of our thanks and admiration are Dr Marenet Jordaan, honours programme coordinator, Ms Anneli Groenewald, Rykie-fellow, and Prof Lizette Rabe, who put this edition together. We also salute all the alumni who contributed, and whose achievements we celebrate. As Charles Dickens wrote: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times ..."

– Dr Gawie Botma  
Chair, Department of Journalism



**BEFORE AND AFTER.** The last time (top) the Class of 2020 could experience normalcy – without an idea of what was lurking just around the corner. During the Wordfees, on Friday 13 March, author Mark Gevisser and associate professor in journalism at New York University, Sukethu Metha, were in conversation with Rykie Fellow Anneli Groenewald. Friday 13th turned out to be 2020's last lucky Friday 13th, as on Sunday, 15 March (... remember the Ides of March?!), President Cyril Ramaphosa announced a State of Disaster. On Monday, 16 March, it was announced that our campus had to be evacuated. This meant the 2020 curriculum "flipped" into a "flipped classroom" as our academic activities "flipped" online; our students scattered over the length and breadth of South Africa, also Namibia. And then 20 July arrived... and this is what 26 Crozier Street looked like (above), including yellow ribbons to welcome all back, as well as those posters pasted everywhere: "We are in this together, but please keep your distance."

# 'DOYEN OF SCIENCE COMMUNICATION'

Prof George Claassen, former head of Stellenbosch Journalism Department, received Stellenbosch University's (SU) inaugural Media Lifetime Achievement Award in December 2019.

In the commendation for the award, it was stated that Prof Claassen "can rightly be called the father of science communication in Africa". Besides that, as former Head of SU's Department of Journalism and deputy editor of *Die Burger* he had "a profound impact on both journalism as a profession and as a field of study – training hundreds of students over at least four decades".

Prof Claassen is a pioneer in science journalism and the ombud system as important spheres of contemporary journalism.

As a pioneer in science communication, not only in South Africa, but on our continent, he was the first journalism academic in South Africa to develop a course in science and technology journalism. "The importance of this genre in journalism is self-evident: modern humans live in a technologically advanced environment, with science advancing daily, but journalists are not trained up for the task of bringing news and information about this fast-advancing environment to target markets," the commendatio stated.

It also emphasised: "It is safe to say that Claassen shaped the thinking of a whole generation of journalists operating in South Africa and beyond, imparting his knowledge on science communication, and implanting in journalists a keen sense of detecting fake news and pseudo-science. He has an ability to see into the media future and has been preparing journalists accordingly, including for the explosion of social media, fake news and propaganda appearing on our screens.

"In many regards, Claassen led the charge in countering the impact of this onslaught on, in and from the media and it came as no surprise that he was the organiser of the first international conference on quackery and pseudoscience."

Prof Claassen also advanced the cause of science communication by establishing the Centre for Science and Technology Mass Communication (CENSCOM), based in the Department of Journalism at SU and served as its first Director.

The commendatio stated that Prof Claassen's influence in "training students, guiding the media and educating the public extends far beyond the borders of the University and he has, for example, presented numerous courses in science and technology journalism for UNESCO in Nairobi, Addis Ababa, Pretoria and Stellenbosch". He spoke at and organised nu-



The SU Lifetime Achiever Award was handed to Prof Claassen by Prof Hester Klopper, SU's Vice-Rector: Strategy and Internationalisation.

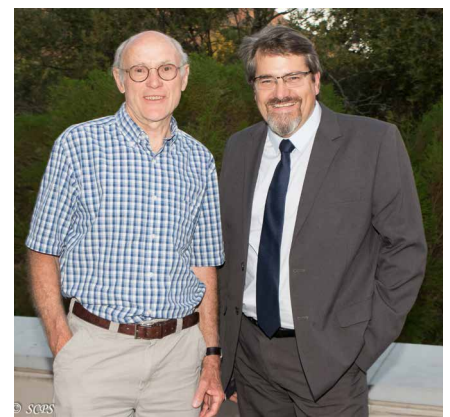
merous conferences and seminars on a global scale. Peers at American universities specialising in science and technology journalism consider his work to be among the best in this field.

Prof Claassen is a former President of the South African Science Journalists' Association (SASJA); the organiser, presenter and facilitator of numerous courses on science communication at various universities, including the highly successful Science Meets the Media in Stellenbosch conferences, held at regular intervals over the last decade with the objective of teaching scientists how to communicate with the media, and, conversely, journalists on how to communicate with scientists.

He also dovetailed science journalism with establishing the first comprehensive course in cultural and scientific literacy in SU's journalism programmes, thereby enhancing journalism students' general knowledge. This he complemented by co-authoring *In the Know* and *Goed om te weet*, an expansive reference work on cultural literacy.

But Prof Claassen did not only focus on science journalism. Taking over from Prof Johannes Grosskopf in 1994, he redesigned the honours curriculum comprehensively. Some of the new modules at the time were media ethics and media management, while paying close attention to advancing environmental journalism and reporting on climate change – a subject matter close to his heart.

As celebrated researcher in his own right, Prof Claassen was also the promoter for and examiner of five PhD students and more than 40 Master's theses. He is also author or co-author of 14 books, notably *Kwakke, Kwinte en Kwale: Hoe 'n onsinverklikker jôu lewe kan red* (a book on quackery in Africa) and *Scamsters, Fraudsters and Health Ghouls – How Quackery Endangers the Lives of Africans*.



Prof Claassen with Martin Viljoen, Manager: Media at SU's Corporate Communication Division, an alumnus of SU's Department of Journalism and member of Prof Claassen's first class in 1994.

Prof Claassen is also synonymous with introducing the media ombud system on the continent. He established the media ombud system in Media24 and is currently, after his retirement, still ombud for the company's community newspapers and the public editor of News24. He has served as a board member of the international Organisation of News Ombudsmen (ONO) since 2011 and he is also a columnist on the subject and organiser/speaker of various conferences and symposia on an international scale in this field.

He is still active as journalist, most notably as a science correspondent for the SABC. Prof Claassen was, among others, the first winner of the SAASTA South African Science Communicator of the Year Award, presented by the National Science and Technology Forum in 2007.

The commendation concluded that Prof Claassen can be considered the doyen of science communication on the African continent and "a worthy recipient of Stellenbosch University's inaugural Media Lifetime Achievement Award". ■

# SOME ENCHANTED EVENING

By Carolyn Frost, Class of 1988, Master's in Science Journalism (*cum laude*) in 2001 and editor of the popular Bolander regional paper.

It's Halloween; a blue moon rises over the Helderberg dome, and the heady scent of jasmine fills the quiet, illuminated night sky, and in the distance, a peacock's plaintive call drifts across the valley.

I'm walking in the garden, nocturnal ritual (sometimes curse, mostly blessing) of the insomniac. Then, a barely perceptible sound, followed by a furtive shadow, and suddenly Petey appears, his impossibly long, translucent ears raised like radars, scanning for the rustle of the resident owl's wings from the branches overhead.

He follows, and then passes me up the mossy pathway under the giant pin oak (now cloaked in her spring leaves), and in the shafts of lunar light, Petey's long back-legged stride looks almost like a kangaroo's gait, comically lovely, with elements of whimsy and mystery.

I reach into my gown pocket for a blueber-

ry, only slightly squashed, and crouch down and tap the ground with my fingertips, a signal. He turns, and comes to me, lifting up to my outstretched hand, and takes it delicately, his softly whiskered mouth caressing my skin – and then he reaches up and licks my forehead, and eyelids.

I am transported, utterly entranced by this little creature who now shares my habitat, with his carpet-slipped feet and white-bobbed tail. He entered our lives almost three years ago, just before we received devastating news regarding my son's health (sending us down the proverbial rabbit hole... yes, an irony).

Said son, who arrived back from a weekend trip to Robertson with his beloved, held out his hand: Cradled in his palm was this loveliest of little beings, a tiny scrub hare (*Lepus saxatilis*) leveret – found in the middle of a dirt road, near McGregor, dehydrated and alone.

Armed with precious little available information, we embarked on this unexpected journey ... night feeds with a bottle of

infant kitten formula, warm sleepy body tucked into our jersey pockets during the day, and a sense of marvel at the synchronicity of events, challenges, experiences.

Such a privilege, to observe a creature so genetically wild, now by an arbitrary quirk of fate joined to the lot of his human "family" – we approached him with the lightest touch as he demonstrated his capacity to survive (against the odds, we found out), and as soon as possible, introduced him to nature, the soil and plants and weather of the garden, where he could live unconfined, as far as possible.

He forages, guided by instinct, and nibbles and samples from the array of shrubs and grasses and succulents, and a nearby greenbelt is a regular source of dandelions, clearly a favourite, and a source of goodness from root to flower. A sweet treat, whether a blueberry or bit of banana or cherry tomato, is also part of our daily ritual, when he appears, as if conjured, upon dawn's first light, or evening's fading glow.

Hares have dispositions and characteristics quite different from those of rabbits, we discovered. They are born to be largely independent ... fully furred, eyes and ears open, and only visited by their mothers once or twice a day, for feeding.

They do not burrow, but dwell upon surfaces, perhaps in a hollowed log, or an indentation in the earth, and their young



Petey as a baby.



Carolyn's son Jackson feeding tiny Petey.

have to rely on their wits from day one, with no parental learning experiences on offer, or shared resources.

The scrub hare, with his grizzly-grey dorsal coat, and white tail and stomach, is endemic to Southern Africa, and can be 60cm in length, and weigh up to 4.5kg. It is by and large a solitary creature, and interacts infrequently with others during moments of amour (short-lived, apparently). During such times, when a female is being courted, the males “box” each other, again much akin to the kangaroo.

Petey cavorts, occasionally zigzagging with incredible bursts of speed (they are capable of running at 70km/h), as he avails himself of the rambling garden, leaping over little stone walls and low-lying branches and shrubs like a steeple-chaser at the Grand National, and leaps and twists mid-air, and when we drum the ground with our hands to show how impressed we are, he doubles down and performs even more extravagant manouvres.

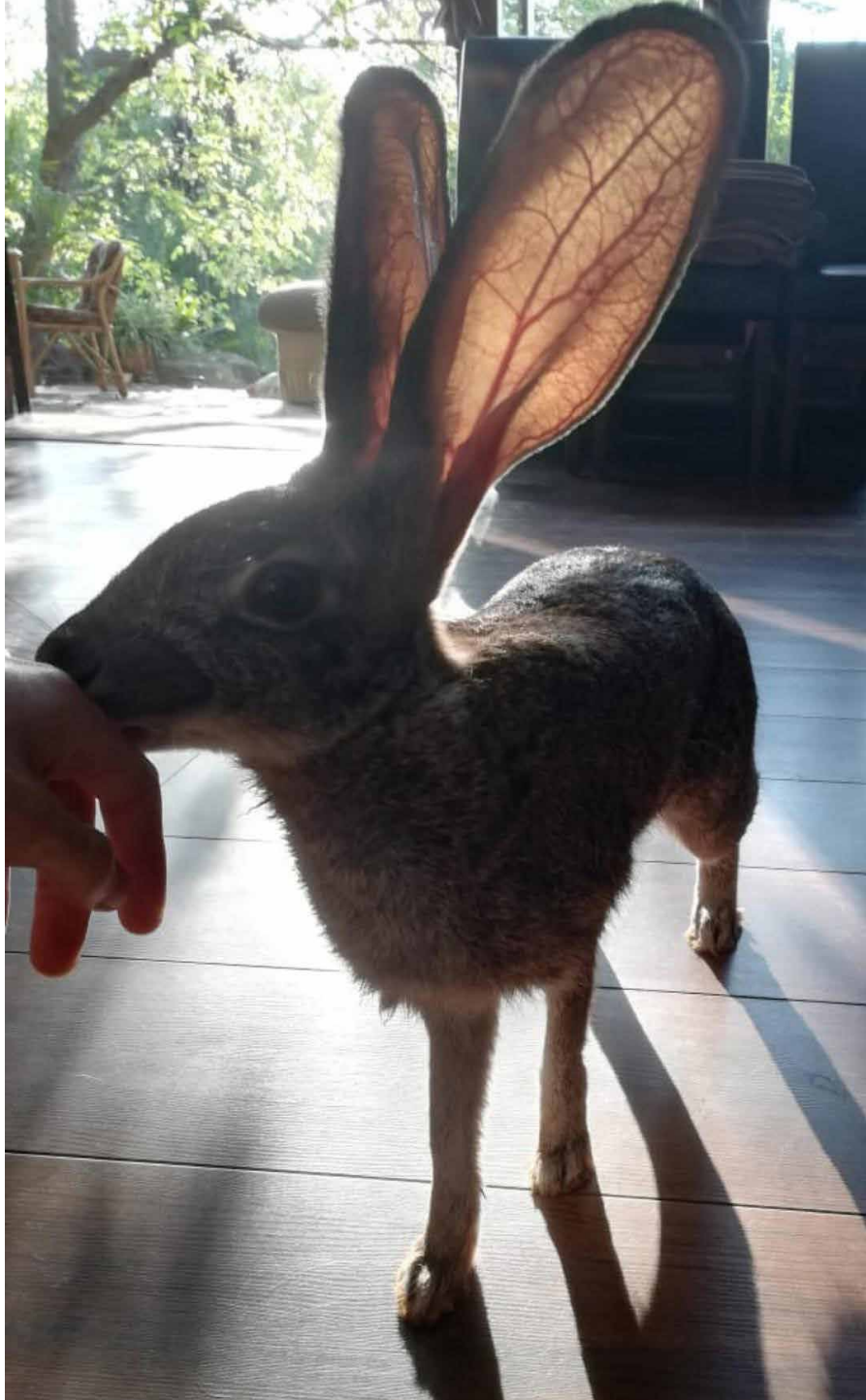
We leave the doors open, throughout the warmer months, and he comes into the house to visit every day, hopping onto the couches and beds, doing gymnastics and figures of eight on the Persian carpet (which provides wonderful traction, versus the slippery wooden floor), and then heads back out, much to the mystification of the two resident cats.

He has his favourite sandy spot where he scratches about to loosen the sun-kissed ground, and then rolls a few times, before lying on his side for a few seconds – never longer – and then disappearing into the undergrowth again.

There are hawks and *Gymnogenes* in the area, and he remains wary at all times, using his ears to pick up the most minute sounds, turning them independently to scan every direction. We built a little lean-to shelter for him, “Petey’s Teepee”, where we scatter lucerne pellets for him to nibble on, and where he is in relative safety from aerial attack from a predator. My enormous cat Max loves to lie on top of this shelter, having befriended Petey (or at the very least, having decided that he is not to be chased).

Throughout the world, hares are written about in mythology. There is something so intrinsically entrancing and enchanting about this elusive, elegant creature, and indeed when we gaze up at the moon, the shape of a hare is carved on her face.

Petey, your entrance into our lives was Kismet, a source of joy and delightful distraction from the preoccupations of our own mortality. And a reminder to, in the words of William Blake, “Kiss joy as it flies.” ■



Petey adding magic to Carolyn’s garden.



Carolyn with Petey.

# 'EXPLOSIVE EXPOSÉ' A WORTHY PRIZE-WINNER



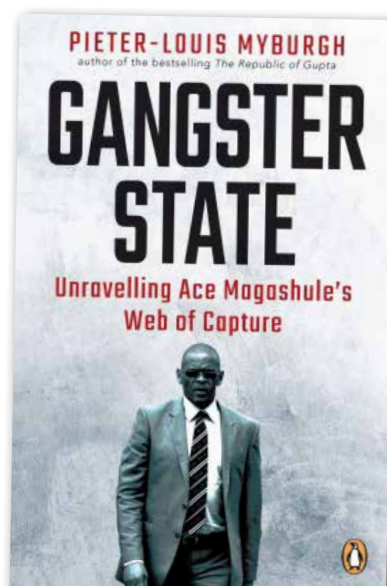
Pieter-Louis Myburgh, author of *Gangster State*, now works for the Daily Maverick investigative unit, Scorpio.

Pieter-Louis Myburgh, Class of 2009, won the 2020 Taco Kuiper Award for his book *Gangster State – Unravelling Ace Magashule's Web of Capture*, published by Penguin Random House. Pieter-Louis was also the author of the bestseller *The Republic of Gupta*.

*Gangster State* exposed the “underhanded dealings” of ANC secretary general Ace Magashule in the Free State. In his commendation, convenor of the Kuiper Awards, Prof Anton Harber said the book changed the way people saw Magashule, a former Free State premier, “as a central Mafia-style boss in a network of Free State government looting”.

Magashule threatened to sue Pieter-Louis, but has yet to do so.

The keynote speaker at the virtual 2020 Taco Kuiper Prize event was veteran editor and free speech stalwart Max du Preez, who warned that many newspapers will not survive due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Also: That especially in a time when more quality information in the form of “good, truthful and probing journalism” was needed, advertising revenue kept on flowing to social media.



Describing it as an “explosive” book, Exclusive Books wrote that the author ventured “deeper than ever before into Magashule’s murky dealings, from his time as a struggle activist in the 1980s to his powerful rule as premier of the Free State province for nearly a decade, and his rise to one

of the ANC’s most influential positions”.

After “[s]ifting through heaps of records, documents and exclusive source interviews, Myburgh explored Magashule’s relationship with the notorious Gupta family and other tendermoguls; investigate[d] government projects costing billions that enriched his friends and family, but failed the poor; reveal[ed] how he was about to be arrested by the Scorpions before their disbandment in the late 2000s; and expose[d] the methods used to keep him in power in the Free State and to secure him the post of ANC secretary-general”.

The author also got hold of “a pack of leaked emails and documents”, all of them revealing “shocking new details on a massive Free State government contract and Magashule’s dealings with a businessman who was gunned down in Sandton in 2017”. All of this confirmed “the methods of a man who usually operated without leaving a trace”. The publication was described as “an unflinching examination of the ANC’s top leadership in the post-Jacob Zuma era, one that should lead readers to a disconcerting conclusion: When it comes to the forces of capture, South Africa is still

winner

Taco Kuiper  
Award for Investigative Journalism  
2019 AWARDS

Pieter-Louise Myburgh

**Judge's Quote:**  
Every now and then, there comes along a piece of work that is so impactful and convincing that it comes to define the way the public sees someone, and that is the case with Pieter-Louis Myburgh's deeply-researched book and its subject, senior politician Ace Magashule.

Gangster State

far from safe”.

Pieter-Louis's work was described by the judges as follows:

“Every now and then, there comes along a piece of work that is so impactful and convincing that it comes to define the way the public sees someone, and that is the case with Myburgh's deeply-researched book and its subject, senior politician Ace Magashule. It was interesting that Myburgh left his perch at the country's biggest news outlet to spend months piecing together a comprehensive exposé of the background of one of the country's most powerful people. Magashule threatened to sue, but of course hasn't, and that he is still in his job says more about this country's politics than it does about the strength of this book.”

It was the 14th Taco Kuiper Award for Investigative Journalism which recognises and encourages watchdog journalism. In its statement, Sanef said that “never before” it was done under such challenging circumstances. Sanef also noted that an interesting phenomenon emerged: For many years, investigative journalism and awards were dominated by three or four mainstream newspaper groups, but “now the bulk of entries appeared first online and many come from the new generation of specialist stand-alone investigative units,



When it comes to the forces of capture, South Africa is still far from safe.

like amaBhungane, Oxpeckers, Viewfinder, the OCCRP, or online-only outlets, such as Daily Maverick, GroundUp, Moneyweb and Politicsweb”.

The runner-up was Daily Maverick's Pauli van Wyk. She was awarded second prize for her investigation into the EFF and the VBS saga. Pauli's work was described as a “magnum opus” that threw a light on how the EFF benefited from VBS Bank, “despite their attempts to deny and cover it up”. It was described as “classic investigation” involving getting documents and inside sources.

But, “it was imaginative forensic social media analysis that pulled the story together and broke new ground: by triangulating credit card statements with social media data”, Pauli found the “missing link” to the EFF leadership. Specifically, it should be “noted Pauli has stood firm in the face of

an onslaught of serious abuse and threats from EFF supporters”.

Prof Harber, on behalf of the judges, also felt it necessary to emphasise the “notable development” of social media targeting of journalists, “particularly woman journalists, often vicious and misogynistic”. It was necessary for “a call for strong action to prevent this attempt to silence journalists, at the same time as commending those who bravely continue their work despite it”.

Other alumni that were mentioned, were Moneyweb's Ryk van Niekerk, Class of 1996, for the Picvest Property scandal, and Stefaans Brümmer (Class of 1990) for the “EFF Rent Racket”, a compendium of stories in which he and colleague Micah Reddy exposed how the EFF used influence over tenders to fund themselves and their party, “exposing the hypocrisy of their claim to be fighting corruption”. ■

# TOP-POSTE VIR ALUMNI

Drie nuwe aanstellings in Stellenbosch Universiteit (SU) se Korporatiewe Kommunikasie-afdeling is in Februarie vanjaar bekend gemaak. Volgens 'n verklaring sou twee ervare bestuurders nuwe ampte opneem ter ondersteuning van lede van die Rektoraat, en 'n derde is in 'n waarnemende hoedanigheid aangestel.

Hulle is Mohamed Shaikh, Klas van 1980, wat ook voorheen by die US gewerk het, en ten tyde van sy aanstelling Bestuurder: Verantwoordelikeidsentrum in die kantoor van die Viserektor: Strategie en Internasionalisering was. Hy het op 1 Februarie 2020 die pos van Uitvoerende Bestuurder: Rektoraat opgeneem. Mohamed het dr Jerome Slamet opgevolg, wat afgetree het.

Dr Wayne Muller, Klas van 1999, wat sy doktoraat in musiek in 2018 ontvang het, was voorheen Redakteur: Publikasies in die Afdeling Korporatiewe Kommunikasie. Wayne het vir Mohamed op 1 Februarie as Bestuurder: Verantwoordelikeidsentrum van die Viserektor: Strategie en Internasionalisering opgevolg.

Susan van der Merwe (Rabbets), Klas van 1981, is kort ná haar aftrede in Februarie aangestel as waarnemende Senior Direkteur: Korporatiewe Kommunikasie nadat dr Phumzile Mmope bedank het.

Mohamed het wye ervaring as sen-

ior bestuurder by verskeie media- en hoëronderwysinstellings. Prof Wim de Villiers, rektor, het gesê sy “uitgebreide institusionele kennis sal 'n waardevolle bydrae tot sy kantoor en die rektorat in die breë lewer”. Wayne, wat voorheen onder meer vir die alumniblad *Matieland* verantwoordelik was, het Mohamed in die kantoor van prof Hester Klopper, Viserektor: Strategie en Internasionalisering, opgevolg. Prof Klopper het gesê sy sien daarna uit om met Wayne as bestuurder van haar verantwoordelikeidsentrum te werk. Susan, wat amptelik in Desember 2019 afgetree het, is aangestel as waarnemende Senior Direkteur: Korporatiewe Kommunikasie.

Intussen is Christelle Feyt as Senior Direkteur aangestel en het Susan vir 'n tweede keer “afgetree” – hierdie keer deur nog twee keer per week vir die SU te werk. Sy help sedert 1 September 2020 met spesifieke projekte, onder meer die kommunikasie vanuit die Institusionele Komitee vir Bedryfsvoortsetting (Institutional Committee for Business Continuity) wat onder Covid ingestel is, en tree nou amptelik einde Desember 2020 af. ■



Mohamed Shaikh



Susan van der Merwe



Wayne Muller

# 'LIFT AS YOU RISE'

*Of all the things Sarietha Engelbrecht, Class of 2007, learnt during her time at Maties, it is the relationships and social networks she forged, which she cherishes most.*

Being dropped off at Nerina Women's Residence in 2003 with my bedding and baggage (mostly snacks, as my mother is a feeder) felt weirdly like the first day of school. I was worried whether I would fit in and make friends, whether I would survive the orientation, whether I would fall victim to the dreaded first-year syndrome and whether people would realise what a big koek I was in high school. But it also felt like an exciting new beginning and an opportunity to learn, grow and reinvent myself.

I went to school in the Northern Suburbs of Cape Town where I lived a pretty sheltered life and most of my friends looked like me and shared my culture and beliefs. Studying at Stellenbosch opened a whole new, wonderful world to me and helped me build relationships that still benefit me to this day.

For the first time, I was surrounded by people from different backgrounds and different parts of the country, who had different interests and opinions that challenged my own. I stayed in a residence with a bunch of women from very diverse backgrounds – from down-to-earth people from farming communities like Victoria West to socialites from hoity-toity suburbs in Cape Town and Johannesburg. I attended classes with people from all walks of life (I even formed a friendship with a Blue Bulls supporter from Pretoria, but please don't hold this against me).

It was so amazing to be surrounded by so many smart and wonderful people in such a formative time of my life. And it is during this time that I met some of my best friends and formed some of my most important social connections, which stretched far outside of campus.

It normally starts with one friend, who becomes a housemate and then invites you to dinner with people from her work who share your taste in music and introduce you to your new favourite band (to this day The National is my favourite band; thank you, Marike!). Or an old classmate who posts on social media about a scholarship or job opportunity that changes your life.

It was only when I became involved in a mentorship programme in Cape Town (which was also recommended to me by a friend of a friend from University) that I realised just how privileged I was to have



Sarietha Engelbrecht

access to all this social capital.

The programme is called SAYes and it works with under-served youth aged 14 to 25 – most of whom live in child and youth care facilities – to support them in their transition to independence and adulthood. You are matched with a young person and spend an hour a week with that person for a few months, during which you help them think about and plan for the next stage of their life. This normally includes thinking about possible careers and further education or employment opportunities.

The brilliant young girl that I was paired with during my first year of mentoring expressed an interest in becoming an actress, politician or social worker. She was incredibly smart, passionate and driven but did not have access to anyone who worked in these fields so that she could get more first-hand information and further explore these career options.

I don't work in any of these fields but I reached out to two people that I knew from University. One arranged a free acting class for her and the other arranged an internship with a ministerial spokesperson. She quickly realised that acting was perhaps not for her and became more convinced than ever that she wanted to make a difference in South Africa through politics and community work. All it took to arrange these opportunities was for me to send two emails. It was then I really realised that privilege goes far beyond where you live, the school you go to or the things you can afford.

In my own life, my social networks have benefited me greatly and many of my best friendships and most important business

relationships are a result of the social capital that I acquired while studying at Stellenbosch University. Yes, going to university is a tremendous privilege. There are so many South Africans that do not qualify for placement, cannot afford the tuition or simply cannot afford to delay earning an income while they study.

In 2019, the government published a 'review' of South Africa's first 25 years of democracy that highlighted the number of South Africans that have achieved a matric certificate and bachelor's degree over the past 25 years. The number of learners that received a Grade 12 National Senior Certificate in 2018 was 78.2% (up from 58% in 1994) but only 33.6% of Grade 12 students managed to pass at bachelor's level in 2018.

There are numerous benefits to having a university degree. Not only does it offer you increased access to job opportunities, higher income potential and greater financial stability but it also expands your access to other opportunities by connecting you to a lifelong network of colleagues, advisors and mentors that can open many doors for you. It also allows you to try out ridiculous and wondrous things you wouldn't otherwise – from fencing to klein sêr.

When I think back to University, I am of course grateful for the knowledge that I acquired but what I cherish most are the relationships that I formed late at night in Bohemia over a box of wine while I should have been studying for my Economics 114 exam. I still see Marike often. We still share great music with one another and reminisce about the mischief that we got up to at University. That is something I value more than remembering that *ceteris paribus* means "all other things being equal".

Businessperson Bonang Mohale published a book with speeches and thoughts on leadership that has one of my favourite titles ever: *Lift as you rise*. I try to use this as a bit of a motto in life. Attending a higher education institution like Stellenbosch University equips you with heaps of social capital. May we all use that and lift others as we ourselves rise. ■

*To learn more about the SAYes mentorship programme, visit [www.sayesmentoring.org](http://www.sayesmentoring.org). Sarietha Engelbrecht is the Digital Marketing Manager at Media24 TV. She completed degrees in Socio Informatics and Journalism at Stellenbosch University and was Primaria of Nerina in 2007.*



# A LETTER TO MY BELOVED CLASS OF 2020



Rykie-genoot Anneli Groenewald saam met die Klas van 2020 met haar verjaardag op 2 Maart - toe alles nog die gewone normaal was in Crozierstraat en niemand geweet het wat die omvang van die krisis was wat ons afpyl nie.

Thank you for lending me your ears this year. Whether in class or on a computer screen, you have listened with so much focus and attention that it's also kept me on my toes.

Now, please allow me the microphone/pen one last time.

Because of what the year has thrown at us, a lot will be said about you guys. It will be said that you are one of the most resilient and adaptable groups ever to walk out of 26 Crozier Street. It will be said that your strongest asset this year has been your ability to stand together as a team.

You've been tough as nails, but you've been able to show each other kindness and compassion when needed. You've also graced me with your kindness and compassion – and that I will forever be grateful for. People will say that you are a special group. And you definitely are (in my eyes, at least!).

But here comes a three-folded warning. Firstly, while this year has contributed in shaping you as people and journalists, don't let it be the only thing that defines you.

While people might say really nice things about you, don't let that define you either. Even when they are true.

Which brings me to the last part of the warning. It's something that we've spoken about in class, too: Dear class, believe in your abilities, but please, please, remain as

humble as you are today.

Always remember the difference between arrogance and confidence. It's terribly easy to become arrogant, because arrogance doesn't necessarily have to be based in anything of substance (and often it isn't – you will witness this as you continue to walk into the world of adulthood and working life).

Becoming truly confident in your abilities, will be a much harder thing to do. It requires commitment, focus and hard work. It requires the humility to be open to your own mistakes, because that is how we learn and become better versions of ourselves. When we've got the guts to be honest about our own mistakes and weaknesses (instead of arrogantly defending them), we can start to work on fixing them.

You will find that those hard hours of work are indispensable to help you refine the skills that are crucial to our craft. It is also the only way to develop an intuition for what it is that we are doing. Increasingly, you will find that you can start to trust your intuition. You will be able to voice your views – with growing authority – because they will be based in a strong and nuanced understanding of what it is that you are talking about.

While I've got the pen, there are a few other things that I think might be of value for your careers. As you meander through

life, some of you will fall out of journalism. Others will continue to fall into it (very hard). Regardless of where you end up, remember to continue to ask the tough questions until you understand.

Remember to listen to your gut. Remember to check every fact. Remember that you are human and that mistakes slip in when you think that you know all the answers.

Remember to smile.

Remember to be hardegat when needed. But, equally important, remember to be kind when needed.

Yes, remember to remain humble, but also to never let people walk over you. Yes, claim responsibility for your mistakes, but also remember to gracefully claim ownership of your achievements. Else other people will.

Remember to be ever observant.

Remember to take care of yourselves – you can't thrive on neglect. Choose your habits wisely.

Remember that your name is yours and yours only. Take great care of it. It could become your strongest commodity, or your worst enemy – ensure that you are the one to determine the power of your name.

Remember to spell-check.

Remember each other.

May you be blessed,

Anneli, Rykie Fellow 2020

# BEST BOOK AWARD FOR WORLDS OF JOURNALISM

*Worlds of Journalism: Journalistic Cultures Around the Globe* of which Professor Extraordinaire Arrie de Beer is co-editor, has been announced as winner of the prestigious International Journal of Press/Politics Best Book Award for 2020. The announcement was made at the 2020 virtually held conference of the International Communication Association (ICA). The award honours internationally oriented books published in the past ten years that advance the theoretical and empirical understanding of the linkages between news media and politics in a globalised world in a significant way.

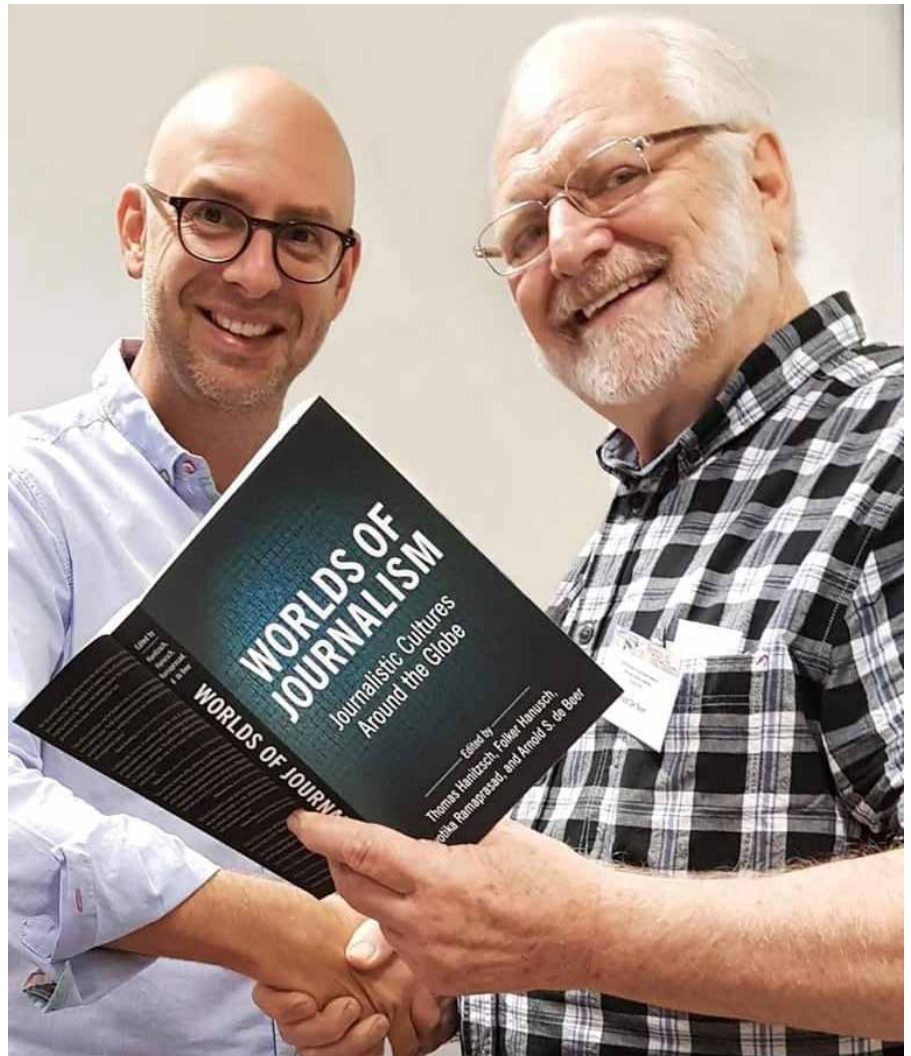
Published by Columbia University Press last year, it reports the results from the second Worlds of Journalism Study which surveyed more than 27,500 journalists in 67 countries.

The book was edited by Thomas Hanitzsch (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich), Folker Hanusch (University of Vienna), Jyotika Ramaprasad (University of Florida) and Stellenbosch's Prof De Beer. It includes chapters from more than 40 co-authors.

Prof De Beer is not only a professor extraordinary in the Department of Journalism, but also served as the Africa co-ordinator, and as a member of the Worlds of Journalism Study Executive. He was also the country project leader for South Africa, which consisted of Journalism alumnus and Director of Film and Media Studies at Cape Town University, Prof Herman Wasserman (Class of 1994), as well as Dr Vanessa Malila, from the School of Journalism and Media Studies at Rhodes University, and Sean Beckett, now at the Health Systems, Health Economics and HIV/AIDS Research Division (HEARD) Institute, University of Kwa-Zulu-Natal, and then research assistant in the SU Department of Journalism.

The Worlds of Journalism Study (WJS) was founded in 2010 to assess the state of journalism throughout the world. The study's main objective is to help journalism researchers, media practitioners and policymakers better understand the worldviews and changes that are taking place in the professional views of journalists, the conditions and limitations under which journalists operate, and the social functions of journalism in a changing world.

A joint effort of researchers from around the world, the project aspires to the highest



Prof Thomas Hanitzsch of the Institut für Kommunikationswissenschaft und Medienforschung at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich and chair of the Worlds of Journalism Study, and Prof Arrie de Beer, from the Department of Journalism at Stellenbosch University, during the launch of *Worlds of Journalism* last year in Madrid, Spain.

standards of scientific collaboration and collective publishing. In so doing, WJS has become a driver of comparative research in journalism studies, and an institutional home for those who engage in it.

The main question *Worlds of Journalism: Journalistic Cultures Around the Globe* deals with is: How do journalists around the world view their roles and responsibilities in society?

Challenging assumptions of a universal definition or concept of journalism, *Worlds of Journalism* maps a world populated by a rich diversity of journalistic cultures. It offers a ground-breaking analysis

of the different ways journalists perceive their duties, their relationship to society and government, and the nature and meaning of their work. Organised around a series of key questions on topics such as editorial autonomy, journalistic ethics, trust in social institutions, and changes in the profession, it details how the practice of journalism differs across the world in a range of political, social, and economic contexts.

Chapter 1 of *Worlds of Journalism* is available from: [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/334490557\\_Exploring\\_the\\_Worlds\\_of\\_Journalism\\_An\\_Introduction](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/334490557_Exploring_the_Worlds_of_Journalism_An_Introduction)

# ROSS EN SY 'ONDERONSIE' MET DIE POLISIE

Dinsdag 28 Januarie, kort ná agt die oggend, het ek en my kollega nuus ontvang dat 'n taxibestuurder pas by die Hugenote-treinstasie in die Paarl koelbloedig doodgeskiet is. Ons het ons na die misdaadtoneel gehaas.

Ons was vroeg daar, en ek het gekyk of die polisie die misdaadtoneel afgebaken het. Daar was nie eens 'n geel lint naby die slagoffer se liggaam in sig nie. Ek het nogtans agter 'n draadheining, saam met ander lede van die publiek gaan staan, en, heeltemal binne my regte, begin foto's neem. Dit was my eerste misdaadtoneel in die eerste maand van my loopbaan as joernalis, en ek wou juis foto's só neem dat 'n mens nie die slagoffer se bebloede gesig sou sien nie.

Nietemin het 'n polisiebeampte my genader en opdrag gegee om nie meer foto's te neem nie. En toe gee sy my opdrag om die foto's uit te vee. Ek het nie; dit was my reg om foto's te neem. Terug op kantoor sou ons bepaal watter van die foto's eties sou wees om te publiseer. Maar die polisebeampte se kollega het gesien ek weier en het geëis dat ek my kamera oorhandig. Ek het natuurlik geweier; ek is 'n joernalis by Paarl Post en is daar om die misdaad te dek – in belang van die publiek. In my

haas na die toneel het ek egter nie my joernalis-ID by my gehad nie. Die konstabel het gemeen ek verskaf "vals inligting" – vir hom genoeg rede om my met inhegtenisneming te dreig en my summier agter in die polisievangwa te boender. Ek het toe my redakteur gebel, wat my aangeraai het om sy naam te neem, waarna sy die intimidasie by sy bestuurder aangemeld het.

Intussen het my kollega opgedaag, hom haar ID gewys en vir hom gesê wie ons is en dat ons binne ons reg optree. Die konstabel het haar gewaarsku dat sy kwansuis met sy werk "inmeng", maar het my darem kort daarna laat gaan.

Dit was nie net my kollegas wat my deur hierdie slegte ervaring ondersteun het nie, maar ook prof George Claassen, ombud van Media24 se gemeenskapsmedia, asook Sanef, wat beswaar gemaak het teen die intimidasie teen joernaliste wat net hul werk doen (dit was maar een van talle sulke gereelde gevalle). Ek is dankbaar dat hulle die stryd met die polisiekommissaris opneem het – nie net om my onthalwe nie, maar in die belang van mediavryheid.

*Deur Ross Michaels, Klas van 2019*



Ross en sy 'onderonsie' met die polisie.

## Saarah at the LSE ... for now, via Zoom

I should be writing this in London, but neurosurgery seven weeks ago and a global pandemic has resulted in me staying in Cape Town and attending classes online until the end of the year. I am currently five weeks into my MSc in Media and Communications at the London School of Economics.

In March, I was diagnosed with a rare pituitary tumour (the Cape Institute of Endocrinology had only seen two other cases). My team of doctors wanted to operate then, but rumours of a lockdown were circulating and we decided to wait. Little did we know that three weeks of lockdown would turn into seven months (and counting).

In August, I went for a follow-up consultation with my doctors prior to leaving for the UK. They were unwilling to delay surgery as the growth of the tumour was unpredictable. In September, I underwent trans-sphenoidal surgery and spent four days in the ICU. The hardest part was not having the physical support from family and friends, because of Covid restrictions. The surgery was successful and it's hard to believe that two weeks later I started

classes. Becoming a student again after almost four years, especially via distance learning, has been a huge adjustment. Surprisingly, London doesn't have the reliable digital infrastructure one would expect from a global city, but I suppose we're all navigating uncharted waters.

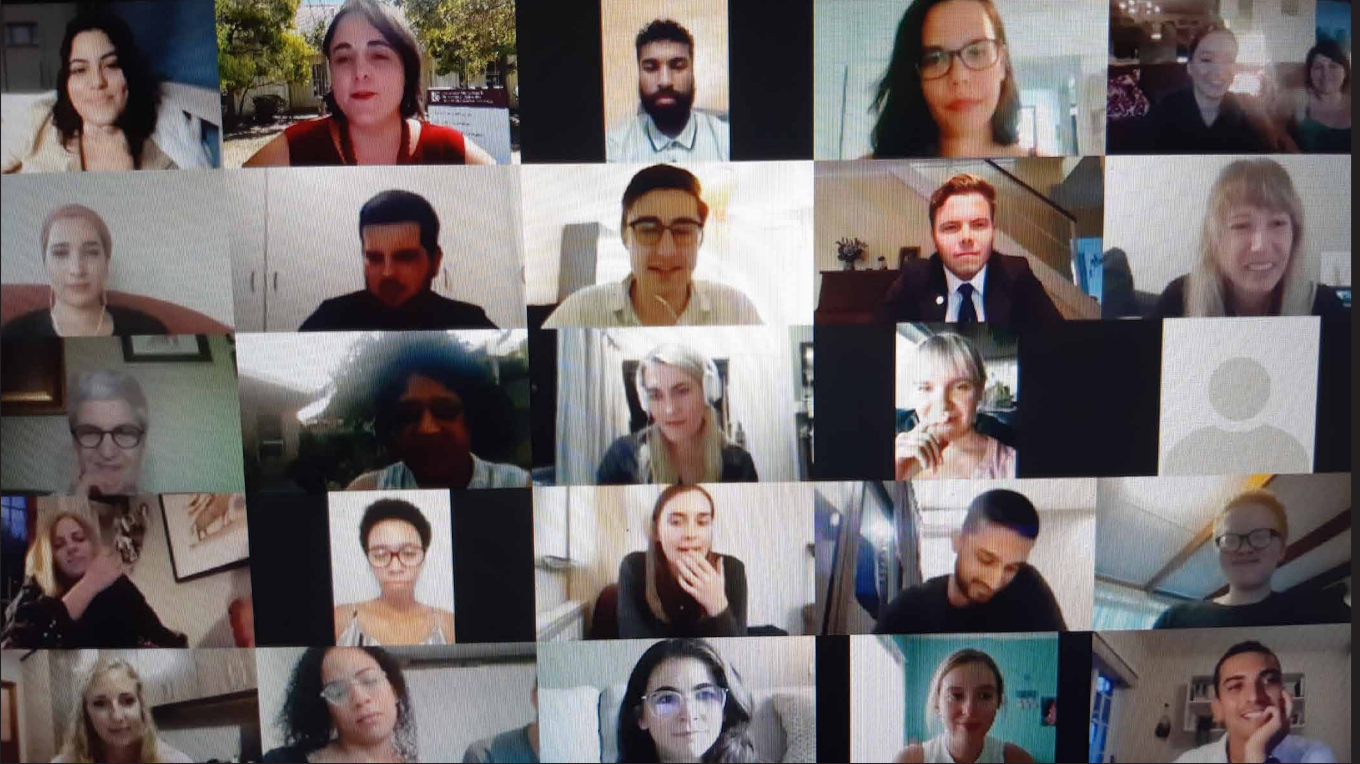
While I'm finding this term's compulsory courses on Theories and Concepts of Media and Communications, and Methods of Research interesting, I'm eagerly anticipating my electives next semester, specifically, Mediated Resistance and Activism, and Mediated Feminisms.

I'm appreciating the diversity of my fellow students and lecturers, which contributes to a truly global experience against the backdrop of the pandemic. Most of my classmates, who I've now met on Zoom or connected with on WhatsApp, have also opted for distance learning. When I see their sleepy faces connecting from Baltimore, Bangalore and Beijing, I consider myself lucky that my latest class ends at 8:30pm on Mondays. But then again, journalism doesn't keep office hours!

*By Saarah Survé (Class of 2016)*



# THE CLASS OF 2019's ZOOM-ED GRADUATION



Due to Covid-19 all of the April graduation ceremonies were cancelled and degrees were “virtually” bestowed by the SU’s Chancellor, Judge Edwin Cameron, and Vice-Chancellor, Prof Wim de Villiers. The Department of Journalism could therefore also not host its traditional celebration after the ceremony with the annual toast (and last bash for our graduates) - a sad first in the history and traditions of 26 Crozier Street. We therefore held a Zoom-graduation ceremony on which the prize winners for the Class of 2019 were also announced. They were: the Daily Maverick Prize for Best Student: Sethu Mbuli; the Golden Pen Award for Best In-depth Project: Mike Wright; the Yunus Mohammed Prize for Best Photographic Portfolio: Tashin Singh; the Christina Scott Prize for Best Student in Science Journalism: Sethu Mbuli; the Media Innovation Prize for Best Business Plan: Ingrid Klückow; the Media24 Piet Cillie Prize for extraordinary style and formulation: Wianda Gilliland; and the Ton Vosloo Prize for Leadership: Roxanne Mooneys. BELOW: A photograph of the Class of 2019.





Well-known commentator, ex-editor of the *Sowetan* and ex-chair of Sanef, Mpumelelo Mkhabela, Class of 1999, was the special guest for a double celebration on 23 October, the very last class day of a never to be forgotten 2020, namely the launch of two special publications. The department's annual *Stellenbosch Media Forum* (SMF) was written and produced under the most difficult of circumstances by the Class of 2020. The second publication was a media historiographical research project on media freedom, *A luta continua - A history of media freedom in South Africa* by Lizette Rabe (Class of '78), published by AfricanSunMedia. Of the book, spanning 400 years of (media freedom) history, Prof Keyan Tomaselli, professor emeritus of the University of Kwazulu-Natal and visiting professor at the University of Johannesburg, said it is "a single coherent, comprehensive, connecting and utterly compelling narrative". On the photograph (above), pictured (almost 1,5 m apart) are SMF editor, Kirthana Pillay, Mpumelelo Mkhabela and Lizette Rabe. On the photo (left) Ton Vosloo, former honorary professor in the Department, former Managing Director and also Chair of the Board of Naspers, who wrote the foreword for the publication, speaks about the importance of media freedom at the launch.



Bimbo Fafowra, PhD candidate from Nigeria and member of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences' Graduate School cohort of 2018, and her supervisor Lizette Rabe, shortly after her hugely successful viva. Bimbo's dissertation is titled "Media construction and representation of women in political leadership positions: A study of selected news media outlets in Nigeria". Bimbo passed the oral examination with flying colours and is on the cusp of becoming one of the leading intellectual voices of a new generation of African scholars. As PhD candidate, Bimbo will also be one of the few Stellenbosch University graduates who will receive her degree in person in 2020, as only PhDs will be awarded their qualification on special ceremonies on 14, 15 and 16 December.

# IN ONE WORD: THE YEAR THAT WAS

By the Class of 2020

Change  
Isaac Ndlovu

Hope  
Kesia Abrahams

Perseverance  
Wilné van Rooyen

Bizarre  
Hloni Manare

Surreal  
Victoria O'Regan

Resilience  
Kirthana Pillay

Remarkable  
Rebecca Pitt

Temper-oond  
Jenna Lemmer

Determination  
Sarah Hoek

Tumultuous  
Savannah Bacon

Enlightening  
Michael Brown

Connection  
Nicole Nasson

Onbekend  
Lezanne Steenkamp

Grit  
Rachele Button

Whirlwind  
Tyler Setzer

Untamed  
Octavia Spandiel

Surpass  
Callan Riddles

Paradoxical  
Masego Mafata

Unprecedented  
Daniele-B von Ziegler Smith

Uitdagend  
Heidi-Jane de Wee

Momentous  
Megan Muller

Dapperheid  
Anke Nothnagel

Friendship  
Fern Bamber

Tenacious  
Byron Latham

Transformatief  
Carl Thomas

# IN MORE WORDS: THE YEAR THAT WAS

By the Class of 2020



## KESIA ABRAHAMS

When the countdown for the new year began on December 31st, I was filled with hope. I was hopeful that 2020 would be a good year, filled with growth and light. However, when the pandemic hit South Africa, I found myself filled with dread. We were forced to adapt to unprecedented circumstances, unsure of what our future would look like. For many of us, 2020 has been an incredibly challenging year. A year that has been categorised by pain and loss. Throughout this year, I found myself questioning the state of humanity as the pandemic caused numerous divides in society. However, I reminded myself to never give up hope, because for me, 2020 was a year of hope. Although I don't know what the future will look like, I know that everything would play out as it should, and that things will get better. In the wise words of HuffPost's Judith Rich: "Hope is a match in a dark tunnel, a moment of light, just enough to reveal the path ahead and ultimately the way out."



## ISAAC NDLOVU

2020 has been one of the most unpredictable years I have ever witnessed. It was a year that took us out of our comfort zones and the "new normal" directed us into uncharted territory. In each generation the world faces change. However, never has a generation had to readjust to change so quickly. As a result, 2020 has been a year that has presented many challenges. There were several occasions where we had to expect the unexpected. In our modern age there are usually answers for everything - whether through a textbook or website - about how to deal with the subject. However, the challenges of 2020 had no pre-written user manual. Crozier Street taught me how to change and adjust for the better. Put metaphorically, the textbook written until now has been limited; a second edition has now been added. Many generations after us will look back and reflect on our textbook with lessons learnt that can be carried on to any unpredicted time in the future.



## HEIDI-JANE DE WEE

Die wêreld soos ons dit ken, is vanjaar voorwaar heeltemal onderstebo gedraai. Om vir ongeveer vyf maande van die huis af te moes werk, was een van die grootste uitdagings. Dié aanpassing was egter deel van die jaar, en ons moes daaraan gewoon raak. As Klas van 2020 het ons mekaar ondersteun en saam dié uitdaging met 'n huppel in ons stap oorkom. Die jaar het my geleer dat 'n mens altyd aanpasbaar moet wees en die beste van elke situasie moet maak. Ek het geleer dat dinge nie altyd so sleg is soos wat 'n mens dink nie. Dat dit belangrik is om die positiewe in die negatiewe te identifiseer, en daarop te fokus. Die positiewe vir my was die feit dat ek nog steeds die geleentheid gehad het om my passie na te jaag, ten spyte van Covid-19. Daarvoor was ek dankbaar, want so baie ander mense se lewens is veel erger geraak deur die pandemie. Ek het geleer om dankbaar te wees vir wat ek het, te werk met wat ek het, en nie te fokus op dit wat ek nie het nie.



## MASEGO MAFATA

Last year, as I tried to make sense of the often-changing nature of the world around me, I resigned myself to the idea that mutual exclusivity is mostly a myth. The world is riddled with nuances that often enable the coexistence of concepts and phenomena that we perceive as oppositional. Little did my "2019-self" know that this resignation would become visceral and carry me through 2020. To say the paradoxical nature of this year has required extensive emotional gymnastics from me would be an understatement. Initially, I was excited and committed to pursuing the various opportunities at my disposal this year. However, come 16 March 2020,

this excitement was now competing with feeling consumed by the paranoia that Covid-19 instilled in many of us. And this was only the beginning. The unprecedented, rapid change that we witnessed in 2020 did not give me time to mull over and process much of what I felt. Instead, I found myself sitting concurrently with joy and heartache, or despair and hope. Among the many lessons I learnt at Crozier Street, the need for an adaptable presence is one that stands out most. It is this adaptable presence that makes it possible to navigate this paradox, because it teaches you to find ways of pausing - briefly - while still on the go.



#### JENNA LEMMER

In die week voor ons November-eksamen het Anneli Groenewald, ons Rykie van Reenen-genoot, my gevra hoe dit gaan. Ek het (onvrywillig) senuagtig gelag en geantwoord: "Dit gaan." Toe vertel sy my van dié lirieke deur Piet Botha: "En solank die oë nog lag, is die kind seker okay." 2020 het Crozierstraat 26 se kinders, soos Professor Lizette Rabe ons noem, kwaad, mal, moeg, moedeloos, en deurmekaar gemaak. Maar bowenal het dit my meer opgewonde en toegerus laat voel vir 'n loopbaan in joernalistiek as wat ek ooit gedink het ek sou wees. Dit was vreemd, maar vrugdraend. Taf, maar totaal die moeite werd. My oë, gerig op 'n lewe van vroeë en elke dag iets nuut leer, lag nog. Dié kind is nog okay.



#### FERN BAMBER

I could never have anticipated the challenges that 2020 would present during my year at Crozier Street. Being spread across the country, and even across borders, and, of course, meeting online due to Covid-19, meant that we as a class lost precious time together. Despite this, reuniting, and creating our SMF did something remarkable. It fostered friendships that I believe will last for a lifetime. These friendships do not apply only to my peers, but to our course convener, Marenet Jordaan, and Rykie van Reenen Fellow, Anneli Groenewald - two women who have inspired me more than they could ever know. Surviving a pandemic and coming out unscathed, for the most part, can be attributed in my case to all the change agents I learned with, and grew alongside, this year.



#### TYLER SETZER

A year that will forever be etched in my memory. 2020. The year that brought me to my knees, but also helped me realise my potential. It was a year that pointed to the fragility of humanity and fostered in me a profound appreciation of all my blessings. It taught me endurance, resilience, patience, faith, and the importance of taking time to slow down. Although it felt as if the world was falling apart at times, the readiness of many to help others in times of crises revealed the inherent goodness in us all. For me, it is this light in the face of darkness and uncertainty that has been the most outstanding feature of 2020. May we always remember, especially in times of flux, our duty to help others and the difference we can make in the lives of those around us.



#### NICOLE NASSON

When I turned 23 this year, I had a bit of an early-life crisis. Just a small one. I had no direction and thought I was behind the progress of my peers. I did not know what to expect from this year. Would it give me what I needed? Would it help me get where I needed to be? I did not know, and I still do not. What I do know is that this year was packed with lessons. Amongst some, I learnt to write, to design, to edit. But I also learnt to build relationships, to connect and communicate with people. Not only that, but also to focus on myself and my role as an important cog in the machine. 2020 might be a disastrous year for many, but it has also been one of learning and yearning. I am now hungry for more. This year has taught me that being idle is not what we as journalists (and as people) should do. Now, more than ever, we need to come together, in any which way we can: mentally, emotionally, or virtually.



Solank die oë  
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#### SARAH HOEK

At the beginning of this year, I thought I knew what journalism was and how I could be a journalist. I was wrong. My expectations were exceeded far beyond my imagination. My world has been deconstructed and reconstructed. I have had to tear apart my thoughts and my writing and build them back up. I have learned and unlearned and relearned again. Journalism taught me that this is a good thing, and that sitting in, and working through uncomfortability is what makes the best journalist, and I am immensely grateful for that. This department has broadened my world and my

perspectives, and I have been exposed to things that I truly believe I never would have been outside of this building - academically, professionally, and personally. I have had the opportunity to learn first-hand from astounding journalists, as well as watch my fellow classmates become astounding journalists too. Despite the late nights, the thousands of words written, and hours spent working, I have been forced to dig into myself and what kind of journalist I wish to be. Hundreds went before us, and now 26 journalists are leaving Crozier Street. We hope we make you proud.



#### MEGAN MULLER

I walked into 26 Crozier Street very anxious, naïve, not knowing a single soul, and with little confidence in my own abilities - the exact opposite of what makes a journalist. However, I was curious. The stories I had heard excited and intrigued me. Yet, nothing could fully prepare me for the chaos and magic that is 26 Crozier Street. Add a pandemic into the mix, and it seemed as if everything we ever have known, had changed overnight. As the world changed around me, so did I. Crozier Street has helped me to develop adaptability, resilience, bravery, and confidence in myself. Moreover, I am immensely thankful to the lecturers and staff for their unwavering kindness and support that they have shown us during a very difficult year. I could not have done this without the help of my classmates. I walk away with skills and experience that are invaluable, a wealth of knowledge, memories that I will forever cherish, and lifelong friendships. It is such an honour to be part of the rich tapestry that is 26 Crozier Street, and as the saying goes: "You may leave 26 Crozier Street, but 26 Crozier Street never leaves you."



#### CARL THOMAS

As iemand vir my sou sê in 2020 sou daar 'n wêreldwye pandemie wees omdat iemand in China (na bewering) gedink het dis 'n goeie idee om 'n vlermuis te eet, sou ek vir hulle gesê het dat hulle dááí idee aan Hollywood moes gaan verkoop. Tog, hier sit ons nou in 'n tyd waar jy 'n skewe kyk of 'n klap kry as jy hoes, en waar jy stry met die sekuriteitswag by die winkeldeur omdat jy jou masker by die huis vergeet het. 2020 was beslis 'n jaar wat niemand ooit sal vergeet nie - of wil onthou nie. Maar dit was ook transformatief. As 'n joernalistiekstudent het die pandemie die skille van my oë laat val en ek het besef hoe belangrik die rol van joernaliste régtig is. Suid-Afrika is 'n gebroke land, met pleisters wat die wonde probeer toeplak. Maar in 2020 het die land se pleisters opgeraak. 2020 het my geleer dat waarheid en deursigtigheid broodnodig is as joernaliste politieke leiers verantwoordbaar wil hou en die benadeeldes uiteindelik uit die strik van sistemiese rassisme wil probeer red. 2020 was nie die jaar waarvoor ons gevra het nie, maar dit is die jaar wat baie vrae beantwoord het.



#### DANIELE-B VON ZIEGLER SMITH

As the world hurled into what became declared a pandemic, the Class of 2020, the Class of Covid-19, experienced a brief slither of silence. This silence followed Stellenbosch University abruptly stopping physical classes on 16 March. During lockdown level 5, the world experienced a perpetual pause. Yet, contrastingly, for journalism students the pace was escalated. As disinformation paralysed populations and people experienced a level of uncertainty unbeknownst to us, we were required to rise. This built stamina, resilience and perseverance. Recognising that this virus has merely exacerbated pre-existing inequalities in our country, to me, as a journalism student, the need for informed opinions, conveyed through objective writing, became increasingly essential. The greatest skill that a post-pandemic journalist can have, is the dynamic ability to adapt to constantly changing circumstances, with ease, and importantly, accuracy. We had to be multifaceted and versatile, courtesy of Covid-19. During the turbulent 2020, meticulous fact-checking, and in particular, quality science journalism, became critical and immutable.



## Returning to the Crozier-hub in July was like a grand homecoming.



### BYRON LATHAM

26 Crozier Street is a pressure cooker. You must learn to work at a faster pace and achieve a higher standard than you ever have before. But, add one-part brilliant mentors, one-part determination, mix in a few generous handfuls of friendship (and some spice), set the intensity to “pandemic”, and you will get something worth the wait. While aspects of this career are tough, if you constantly work the pressure and make sure it doesn’t inhibit you from learning, you will leave the programme equipped and ready to step into the workplace. However, if you have a Rykie van Reenen Fellow like Anneli Groenewald, you’ll be able to walk away with far more. The year taught me that the media industry it was preparing me for is not a one-man show. Learn from your teachers, your sources, and your friends. If you follow this recipe, and add the magic ingredient - planning - then you might be able to taste some worthwhile results.



### ANKE NOTHNAGEL

Daar is geen twyfel dat die jaar 2020 groot veranderinge gebring het nie. Die Covid-19-pandemie het ongekende uitdagings, onsekerhede en vrese opgelewer wat my, en baie ander, weerloos en broos gelaat het. Maar met 'n terugblik op die jaar onthou ek 26 warriors van Crozierstraat wat elke dag met dapperheid aangepak het. Ten spyte van ons vrese en onsekerhede het elkeen van ons besluit om die onbekende te trotseer. Ons het besluit om uit ons gemaksones te beweeg en nie weg te skram van uitdagings nie. En in moeilike tye het ons ons koppe hoog gehou. Dié besluite het dapperheid geveer - en in die dapperheid het ons gegroei. Gegroei as joernaliste, gegroei in ons menswees, verhoudings, insig en wysheid. Die Amerikaanse skrywer Morgan Harper Nichols het gesê: “Bavery is the audacity to be unhindered by failures, and to walk with freedom, strength, and hope, in the face of things unknown.”



### LEO CORDOM

Met my eerste tree in Crozierstraat 26 het ek ingestap met 'n bepaalde visie oor wat 2020 vir my moes inhou. Ek het groot doelwitte gehad. Drome wat ek wou bereik. En die jaar móés - eenvoudig gestel - onvergeetlik wees. Covid-19 het dié visie omvergegooi. Vanjaar moes ek myself leer om te doen wat ek kan, met nêr my kaal hande en die vaardighede wat ek geleer het. Hoewel die ervaring uitdagend was, het dit my kosbare lesse oor die lewe geleer. As 'n jong joernalis is dit vreesaanjaend om nuwe ruimtes te betree, maar die wete dat daar mense rondom jou is wat soortgelyke vrese en angs ervaar, maak dié ervaring meer draaglik. Daarom het 2020 my gewys dat dit belangrik is om 'n sterk ondersteuningsnetwerk te hê. Dié mense rondom my het my laat voel dat ek behoort, dat ek veilig is waar ek tans is, en dat ek deel vorm van 'n gemeenskap. Daarom, glo ek, het 2020 my die belangrikheid geleer van 'n sterk ondersteuningsnetwerk.



### REBECCA PITT

The year was turbulent, but 26 Crozier Street remained remarkable. Even as we worked from our remote homes for roughly five months, it remained so: Remarkable. We walked into the journalism department in February - what feels like a completely separate year ago. I knew very well from past years that the year on Crozier Street would be tough. I heard stories about news tests, bi-weekly MatieMedia stories, and backlogs of assignments that would help shape us to stand ready before the industry we all love so much. Then, a pandemic hit. And resilience was required. The

newsroom became my corner desk in my family home and the lecture hall became a bizarre virtual classroom. Suddenly, that virtual space became the closest thing to normal: Hearing and seeing my classmates via computer screens. Returning to the Crozier-hub in July was like a grand homecoming. Indeed, it was a strange but appropriate year for the times that lie ahead. Amongst it all, lessons about resilience from Crozier Street will stand out. That, and the sweet fact that not even a pandemic could take away from 26 Crozier Street’s significance.



**KIRTHANA PILLAY**

Being scattered across the country for most of the academic year was not easy. Despite this, our class grew bonds that we will cherish for years to come. We were able to develop these bonds because our department “mothers”, Marenet Jordaan and Anneli Groenewald, helped nurture us. They, as well as all the lecturers and support staff allowed us to continue with this prestigious degree away from Crozier Street. For that, we thank them. In the few months that we did spend together, we managed to achieve so much. Our biggest achievements, by far, were the documentaries we made, and my personal pride and joy, our magazine, *Stellenbosch Media Forum*. 2020 was the year of change and our edition of SMF encompasses that. Get your hands on a copy or head to our brand-new webpage (<http://www.sun.ac.za/english/faculty/arts/journalism/publications/smf>). We hope what you see will make you an even prouder Crozier Street alumnus.



**HLONI MANARE**

This year has undoubtedly been the most challenging 26 Crozier Street and its inhabitants have seen. The Covid-19 pandemic turned the entire planet on its axis and has left the near future uncertain. The Class of 2020 has had to adapt to changes as they came along. Or, as the saying goes: Build a plane while flying it - while facing other challenges. I would like to think that this year has made us the class to look out for. Our never-say-die attitude this year, our resilience, and embracing tough challenges with kindness, humour and positivity, are some of the characteristics I will always remember. I think that this year, 26 Crozier Street has produced brilliant journalists who will be game changers in the media industry, and who will undoubtedly change the world. And with a resilient and amazing Rykie like Anneli Groenewald, I have no doubt that this will come into fruition.



**OCTAVIA SPANDIEL**

The year 2020 has shown me that I am too curious for complacency. While I had the overwhelming fear of not being able to complete my studies, I found this personal lesson essential to really understand what is important in my life. The truth is, I cannot journey this earth alone. I am a social being in need of the touch, support, and care of the people I love so dearly. Furthermore, I have always loved the phrases learning, unlearning and relearning. Never did I anticipate this process to hit me like a storm in 2020. The young woman I am today is strong, resilient and capable. The bravery of each individual who has survived 2020, and continues to live during the pandemic, has changed my thought process for the better. I am excited to see the metamorphosis in the media industry and what my skills set can offer.



**SAVANNAH BACON**

2020 was a turbulent year. Just when we felt like we had a handle on things, life presented a fresh set of challenges. It has been a year of climate activism, social justice, political shifts, and of course, a global pandemic. The pandemic highlighted the many cracks in society and has caused a global reconsideration of priorities and values. The importance of an educated society has never been more necessary, and this year at Crozier Street has afforded me just that. Meeting individuals who inspire, challenge and

support you every step of the way has fostered an incredible bond and a drive to prioritise empathy, transparency and accountability. Although this year has not been one constant “up”, I feel incredibly privileged that I had my classmates and mentors available at all times. I think Covid-19 has given us a fresh approach to journalism and the media, which previous classes at Crozier Street did not have. If someone offered me the opportunity to rewind the clock and do it all again, I would.



Crozier Street has shaped individuals that can navigate and rise above this turbulence.



**WILNÉ VAN ROOYEN**

How does one describe 2020 in a couple of words? A year that started with me living my best life. I was soon going to start my Honours in Journalism and I was photographing bands like Fokofpolisiekar. And then Covid-19 happened. It flipped my world upside down, forcing me out of my routine and comfort zone. At least I got to go home to Namibia and spend some time with my family. Despite everything that this pandemic threw at me, I persevered. I gained so much wisdom and I realised that if I can adapt to this crazy time, I am more than ready for the ever-changing world of journalism. The Class of 2020 missed out on a couple of things, and we didn't spend nearly as much time together as other years' classes. However, I feel we have such a strong bond. Maybe Covid-19 has shown us what we can accomplish if we all work together and if we stand with each other. At the end of the day, this year wasn't so bad. It was a year of learning, reflection, and adaptability. It highlighted my strength and perseverance.



**RACHELE BUTTON**

At times this year, it seemed as if everything we knew had changed. This included the way we worked, what we reported on, what we learnt in the classroom, and how we related to one other. Although the Covid-19 pandemic forced us apart and took away valuable time together, it also brought us closer than we ever could have imagined. While the world was figuring out its "new normal", Crozier Street remained steadfast in her commitment to her students and displayed characteristics of grit that got each one of us through all the uncertainty, and to where we are today. I feel incredibly blessed to have been under Crozier Street's protective wing during a year when everything was in flux. Through setting a precedent of grit and grace towards her students, Crozier Street taught each of us resilience and compassion, necessary for the newsrooms and audiences we will be serving after 2020. Despite the challenges we are bound to face in the new, post-pandemic "real world", Crozier Street has shaped individuals that can navigate and rise above this turbulence.



**CALLAN RIDDLES**

We all have an idea of what our limits are, or of how much we can handle. One thing this year has shown us is that what we think we can handle, compared to what we truly are able to endure, are two completely different things. As Mary Wollstonecraft Shelley, pioneer feminist, wrote in *Frankenstein*: "Nothing is so painful to the human mind as a great and sudden change." Yes, we experienced such a change this year, and it was painful. But it also showed us how far we can surpass others' expectations; also the expectations we placed on ourselves. In all things, through all limits, we have surpassed and thrived. I am in awe of the class of 2020. We have yet to realise just how rare it is to see a group of people support each other the way we have. It was truly an honour. Because we have learned the importance of a good quote in our writing this year, I will include one more as I think about our class. This one by anthropologist Margaret Mead: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."



**LEZANNE STEENKAMP**

Februarie se eerste tree in Crozierstraat 26 was gevul met angs, onsekerheid, belofte - en soveel afwagting. Maar in Maart ruk die wêreld skielik tot stilstand en elkeen is op soek na 'n nuwe vastrapplek in hierdie onbekende. Niks kon ons hierop voorberei nie, met ons nuuskantoor verruil vir virtuele ruimtes en menseverhoudinge wat oor provinsiale, en selfs nasionale, grense moes strek. Tog was dit presies soos dit moes wees: Voorbereiding vir die onbekende. Soos Breyten Breytenbach in 'n onderhoud met Voertaal vroeër vanjaar

gesê het: "Die ergste, die mees ondenkbare, beide in terme van hierdie kroonpespandemie en wat dan daarna gaan kom, lê nog voor. Maar miskien sal die nood ons leer herbesin?" Miskien sal ons leer. Miskien het ons geleer. Miskien nie. In 'n jaar waarin ons soveel ontnem is, nader ons steeds die eindstreep met 'n leeftyd se ervaring vasgevang in nege onbeskryflike maande. So word Crozierstraat 26 - soos dit hoort - ons komvandaan. Ons betree 'n nuwe fase met angs, onsekerheid, belofte en soveel afwagting. Soos dit hoort.



**MICHAEL BROWN**

It is almost inconceivable to believe that a tiny virus particle, only about 80 nanometres in diameter, can cause so much change in society. Yet this remains our current reality, a narrative which has been told by countless industries. It is for this reason I wish to take this opportunity to rather share the lessons I have learned without mentioning the virus. I have had the privilege of spending this year with 25 other talented individuals who have taught me how to become a better journalist. Whether

it be arguing over an edit in a MatieMedia article, or discussing my personal political affiliations with someone else, these interactions have forced me to critically analyse my own thoughts. In addition, I am grateful for the specialist lecturers who have dedicated their time to providing us with knowledge of the world. It is for these reasons why I believe my time at Crozier Street has lived up to the University's motto: *Pectora roborant cultus recti*. A sound education strengthens the spirit.



**VICTORIA O'REGAN**

I learnt something new every day at 26 Crozier Street and during my time away from it. For roughly five months, the virus made a mockery out of physical connection and we were forced to scatter ourselves across the country. The newsroom moved to the comfort of our homes and so did we. But although physically isolated, we were emotionally connected through a shared experience that I believe brought us closer together. In the midst of the pandemic, 26 Crozier Street stood unwavering, ready to wel-

come us back with a socially-distanced elbow greeting when we returned at the end of July. And the lecturers, specialist guests and my 25 colleagues weathered the Covid-19 storm with humility and determination. 26 Crozier Street afforded me the privilege of getting to know 25 incredible individuals who continue to inspire, challenge, and support me every step of the way. And despite the multiple curveballs 2020 has thrown us, my time at 26 Crozier has lived up to every expectation.



Captain Covid and her team who ensured Crozier Street could operate virus-free since July 20th. In the middle is our Departmental Administrative Officer, Elizabeth Newman, who ensured we always had enough sanitisers/wipes/masks/what-have-you's, with on her right, Saffron Greeff, who helped keep our department clean, and on her left, Lijuan Williams-Davids, our Departmental Assistant. Thank you for everything you do to keep students and staff safe: You are yet another Crozier superhero team.

# THE YEAR IN PICTURES



So hardworking, industrious, diligent, enthusiastic, passionate, keen, dedicated and simply superb (again: adjectives deserved) beyond words were the members of the superhero Class of 2020 that they even came to “work” on a day that was supposed to be class free. So there the Masked Wonders of 2020 were, just after they have completed a (once again) brilliantly conceived and executed Stellenbosch Media Forum, this time against all odds, and after spending months across southern Africa in a “flipped classroom” that did not, in the least, flip them out. To the left of the picture is our 2020 Rykie, Anneli Groenewald, a super superhero in a class of her own.



A remarkable year that was - from Day 1 (above left), everyone super excited about all the adventures awaiting them; above right during their media visit - in the care free pre-Covid era - to Cape Town's media, here at Good Hope FM; below left, covering the Wordfees for assignments, not knowing that in about a week's time the busy, bustling Stellenbosch campus will be deserted after a total campus lockdown on March 16, and below right, having survived all that happened between that fateful day and their very last day of class on 23 October, after returning to 26 Crozier Street on 20 July for the second semester. All in all, a year that will go down in history books as one that all of us will never forget. Above all: Viva the super special esprit de corps that only 26 Crozier Street instills in all her students, already since 1978.



Ons wil graag méér alumni se stories in *Janus* vertel. Laat weet ons asseblief as jy nuus het, of hoor van 'n klasmaat wat iets het om te vier. Hoor asseblief ook by klasgenote of hulle op die US se joernalistiek-alumni-databasis is om *Janus* te kan ontvang.

Stuur gerus enige van tyd van die jaar 'n e-pos met nuus na **journalism@sun.ac.za**.

The content of *Janus* is only as good as the tip-offs received from alumni. Please help us to tell everyone's stories. Please also find out whether classmates are on the SU's journalism alumni data base to be able to receive *Janus*.

You can send an email with news, any time of the year, to **journalism@sun.ac.za**.