



## Journalism's three R's *revisited* - and learnt by heart

LIZETTE RABE

**A**lternatively, this can also carry the heading "Storm in a water glass (bottled water, room temperature)". Or: "How to sustain life in a Karmic universe."

But what was this superspecial Stellenbosch superstorm all about?

This is more or less a chronological account of events.

*City Press* editor, Ferial Haffajee, South Africa's first "celebrity editor" (as named by Peter Bruce), visited us for a lecture. We were honoured that she made time for our students. A production company sent a long list of requirements. The department explained to them: it is only a lecture for 25 students, everything is in place. No, they insisted, they need to check that this and that and everything else is in order.

And so it happened.

Of course, as always, students are required to write a report on such visits. In this case, one of them had the extra weight on her shoulders to write her story for *Stellenbosch Media Forum*, the students' annual magazine, because it was also decided to use Haffajee as the cover story, as well as the cover face. Everything went splendidly. The students were duly impressed, despite the initial shock of the production company having them opening the department the morning at 06:30 to check that all requirements are met.

So, after Ms Haffajee asked for and then received the pre-edited draft of the story, an alarming tweet hit cyberspace:

*Wishing I hadn't visited Stellenbosch journalism students on my Heritage*



PHOTO: Johann van Tonder

“  
Wishing I hadn't  
visited Stellenbosch  
journalism student on  
my Heritage Day off.

”

*Day off. Removing knives from my back. Ouch!*

Followed thirteen minutes later by a second one:

*Just experienced what unfair journalism and lousy editorial direction feels like, courtesy Stellenbosch Journ. School. Karmic universe.*

And then, of course, we were all atwitter.

Gleeful souls among Ms Haffajee's 37 000-plus followers immediately pounced on Big Bad Stellenbosch. How could that dreadful HAU\* do it to her! Knives in her back!

Except that no one seemingly dared to ask: But hey, where was this terrible example of "unfair journalism" and "lousy editorial direction" published?

With behind the scenes all kinds of afluttering going on. *Goeie hemel, wat gaan aan?! Wat was ons sonde?!*

Turned out Ms Haffajee was sent an as yet unedited (and thus unpublished) copy of the interview. The scene setter/intro to the story caused the superstorm in cyber space. But we are sure an independent, critical analysis will not find any proof for the accusation. No evidence of "unfair journalism", nor "lousy editorial direction". The closest of readings will not show any malice in the text, subtext, register or tone. Rather, it was true to the event (ok, we could make it a teeny bit worse – we didn't), written with a light-hearted touch to it. And: by a devoted, admiring fan. (To see for yourself, either email the department for a copy of *SMF*, or download the app.)

What were the contents of the scene setter that caused the upset? Just a meek reference to the requests by the accompanying duo from the production company for the visit of our “first celebrity editor” (as said, in Peter Bruce’s words). With the students dancing on the tips of their tippy-toes to ensure everything is just perfect according to the list of requirements – and enjoying every minute of it in anticipation of the visit of their real-life hero.

In retrospect, we all learnt valuable lessons. We know Ms Haffajee had pulled out all the stops and gave much of her precious time and energy to spend most of the day with the BPhil class, and we salute her for that. But was it wrong to refer to those requirements? And to be fair, would the real world media not make much more of such requirements? Do we apply double standards?

So, after the draft was sent to her, the two tweets hit cyberspace.

At first the students appeared incredulous. After almost one year in their intensive boot camp aka honours course at the SU J-school they *know* what unfair journalism is. And would they do that to their hero?

Then the astonishment turned into disillusionment.

Whilst our country needs every ounce

of journalistic energy, our friends in the media also registered some interesting cyber activity on their radars. We stuck to our guns: We are accused of unfair journalism. We believe *we* are the victims. Not only beginner-journalists who work their guts out to earn that name, had their reputation tarnished, but also a whole school where staff work *their* guts out to provide industry with the best possible beginners.

We desperately tried to get a third tweet to hit cyberspace to correct the wrong. It came.

*I was an idiot to Stellenbosch Journalism school and apologise to the students and faculty. Ego and impulse under control. Fine school.*

And we now know that Ms Haffajee is not only the editor out there with the most grace, but also the one with real balls. Another lesson learnt from an icon.

Most of all, we have learnt so much more. Especially about the three r’s of journalism: responsibility, respect and restraint, and how the Class of 2012 will always remember this lesson. And about Peace and Warmth. And Love and Light.

Because it’s a Karmic universe.

\*HAU: Historically Afrikaans University, parlance used in Higher Education to refer to the SU

“

We stuck to our guns: We are accused of unfair journalism. We believe we are the victims.

”



**BPHIL-KLAS VAN 2012:** Agter: Ramon MacMaster, Malherbe Nienaber, Roné McFarlane, Leané Meiring, Gené McAravey, Jan Cronje, Dane McDonald, Byron Messaris, Christa Rohwer. Middel: Esté Beerwinkel, Katjia Bucalina, Shané Barnard, Marisa Fockema, Lucelle Hough, Nadine Moodie, Rochelle Goosen, Ben Pather. Voor: Nathan Adonis, Mia Grundling, Zoë Mahopo, Erin Bates, Aimee McDonald, Marlies Haupt, Celeste Vlok, Suzaan Hauman.

Obituary for Dr William Edwards Trengove

# The perfect *gentleman*

STADLER TRENGOVE

Dr Williams Edwards (Billy) Trengove died on 16 December 2012 in Stellenbosch. Dr T as he was affectionately known by his students was to many who met him the quintessential English gentleman. He was erudite, amusing, compassionate and a great lover of all forms of art. He could quote Shakespeare with ease and spent hours reading Dickens, Sir Walter Scott and Marcel Proust. However, he was an “egte Stellenbosser” and a man who was deeply rooted in the community having been born in Mostertsdrift in 1921 to William and Maria Trengove who had moved to Stellenbosch in 1918.

Dr Trengove could entertain friends and family with many Stellenbosch anecdotes from the 1920's, 30's and 40's including tales of Mr Paul Roos who taught him Latin at the then Stellenbosch Gymnasium.

Dr Trengove's great legacy will be his students, representing several generations taught in a long career spanning more than sixty years and which began in 1942 when he started his career as an English teacher in the “platteland.” He taught in London in 1952/3 and subsequently returned to Cape Town where he taught at several schools including Observatory Boys' High, Cape Town High and Rondebosch Boys' High where he will also be remembered for the school plays that he produced. In the early 1970's, Dr Trengove accepted a position as Senior Lecturer in the Department of English in the Faculty of Education at Stellenbosch University, a Department which he later headed. One of Dr Trengove's great interests was the teaching of English as a second language, which was the focus of his doctorate. Many years later, he was also involved in the development of television programmes that focused on the teaching of English as a second language.

Dr Trengove had many passions besides teaching. He loved mountain climbing and in his youth conquered both the Matterhorn and Kilimanjaro. He travelled widely with his family within South Africa and abroad. He was both an actor and a producer and performed at the Little Theatre in Cape Town and the Libertas Theatre in Stellenbosch. Dr Trengove was also together with Frans Smuts one of the organisers of the Tercentenary Celebrations in Stellenbosch in 1979.

In the final years of his career Dr Trengove became a well known and much loved lecturer at the Stellenbosch Department of Journalism. He took great pride in the fact that many of his students at the Department had become respected journalists, academics and editors of leading magazines and newspapers in South Africa.

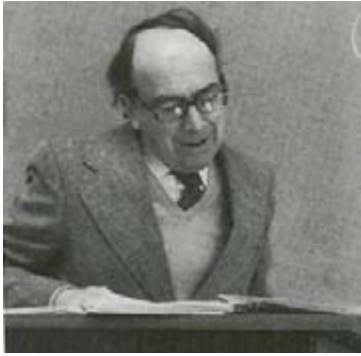
Until very recently Dr Trengove served as the Guide of the Rupert Art Museum, which showcases South African art.

Dr Trengove will be remembered as a true gentleman and a great soul, with a loving and generous personality who touched thousands of lives and who always encouraged people to be positive, to count their blessing and to help others.

He is survived by his two sons and a daughter-in-law, Stadler, Murdoch and Liesa Trengove, his elder brother The Right Honourable Justice John Trengove and his wife Isabel as well as many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held on 5 January 2013 in the Stellenbosch Presbyterian Church in van Riebeeck Street at 3pm.





## Só onthou ons vir Dr T

### JOHANNES GROSSKOPF

HOOF VAN DIE DEPARTEMENT 1984-1993

Dat Billy Trengove by die Departement van Joernalistiek was, was die beste wat met my kon gebeur. Onthou: ek het Stellenbosch en veral die Universiteit totaal nie geken nie, ek was 'n verloopte Ikey wat wel my vak geken het, maar in geen jare iets met universiteite te doen gehad het nie, en hier is ek die nuwe hoof van 'n departement.

Die innemende, hoogs bekwame Billy het gou 'n goeie vriend geword, wat my raad kon gee wanneer ek verbluf staan voor die eise van my nuwe posisie. Ná 'n semester of twee is ek namens die fakulteit gevra of ek my departement wil laat toets: ondersoekende mense sal met die studente gesels om vas te stel wie is die beste dosent. Billy het loshande gewen. Ek het liefsvregeet waar ek op die leer gestaan het.

Dit was 'n voorreg om Billy Trengove te ken, en hom so lank tussen ons te hê.

### LIZETTE RABE

Klas van 1978

HOOF VAN DIE DEPARTEMENT 2001-2011

Dr T was een van die laaste van Stellenbosch se instellings. Die skadu's en die stiltes onder die eikebome sal die waardige gentleman, en *gentle man*, met sy hoed in die somer en baret in die winter mis, en ons gemeenskap sal armer wees sonder sy beskaafde en belese en deernisvolle teenwoordigheid. Binne een jaar het drie Stellenbosse seders, of dan eike, geval: Una van der Spuy kort voor haar 100ste, met Dr T wat juis by dié eeufeesviering die heildronk op haar sou instel; toe Cato Meaker, en nou Dr T. Dis die einde van 'n era vir Stellenbosch. Ons volgende geslagte kan maar net probeer om daardie soort innige wellewendheid uit te leef – en deeglik besef hoe ons *nie* daarin slaag nie, en nooit kan slaag nie. Dis Stellenbosch se eiesoortige sofistikasie wat al hoe skaarser word – nie die blasé soort nie, nie die neus in die lug-soort nie, net gewoon 'n eiesoortige lewens- en wêreldbeskouing wat eie is aan 'n lieflike dorp met 'n rivier wat deur sy hart vloei, omring van koesterende berge.

### LEONA AMORAAL

1978 tot altyd

On his birthday (13 November) I phoned Dr T expressing my wish to have coffee and realised he was not up to it – I spoke to him again after his two operations when he was back at Azaleahof. I tried to confirm our coffee date, but realised then it may never materialise.

I am not going to add to everything written about him, but as many others we had a special relationship – regular phone-calls

and coffee-dates – he was truly the one and only charming Dr T.

Certain traits I do remember – he always did his marking in pencil. After the test-series in June he would hand in a typed evaluation of every member of the class. The accuracy and unique way of describing each student underlined his special ability to evaluate character.

Another memorable annual event was at the end of the year when he invited the whole class for tea at his house in Rozendal. Dr T a widower for many years, did virtually all the baking – scones, apple-tart and chocolate cake – he was the perfect host.

### INGRID SCHOLTZ

DEELTYDSE DOSENT

Dr T

As almal oombliklik weet wie daarmee bedoel word, dan is jy reeds tydens jou lewe 'n legende. En dit is wat dr Trengove was en nog lank sal bly.

Dosent by uitnemendheid, minsaam, erudiet, en die verpersoonliking van 'n verbye tydperk waar goeie maniere vanselfsprekend was.

Ook iemand wat eintlik nooit afgetree het nie. Wat tot in sy tagtigerjare jong studente by die afdeling joernalistiek regtig geleer het om te skryf en te dink. Wat bewys dat goeie onderwys nie gebonde is aan leeftyd nie.

Dr T ek sal altyd ons goeie gesprekke oor kultuur en kuns, verlig deur 'n baie fyn humorsin, onthou. U lewe was een wat deur almal gevier moet word.

Waar u nou ook al is, mag dit goed gaan met u.

### FRANCOIS WILLIAMS

KLAS VAN 1992

Dr Trengove was the essential English gentleman, but with a South African sense of humour to it. He was very good at teaching us about the proper use of the English language, and doing it with patience and a twinkle in the eye.

### ANEL LEWIS (POWELL)

KLAS VAN 2001

Dr T was a consummate gentleman who treated each of his students with warmth and respect. He was an excellent teacher, who took the humdrum out of our grammar classes. I remember visiting his home near the end of the year, with Pierre du Bois, and being treated to his “famous” chocolate cake. It was an honour to have been one of Dr T's students.

*Die keer toe ek (uiteindelik) my eie*

# SAKTYD

CHRIS BOONZAIR

gekry het



**E**k onthou toe ek in 2007 vir die eerste (en tot op hede, laaste) keer in my lewe iets gesteel het. Dit was 'n senuagtige affêre, wat ek met my gedwonge NG kerk-agtergrond verbasend onsentimenteel en haarfyn beplan het. My teiken was op die US-kampus se Rooiplein, so ek moes weens die voetverkeer die *mission impossible* laataand uitvoer, en dit moes regtig net 'n geval wees van gryp en hol. Dis mos hoe dit in Suid-Afrika gedoen word.

Maar skuldgevoelens, met beelde uit my kinderdae van my ma wat die tien gebooue met 'n meneer van 'n houtlepel in my ingedril het, het my in die proses gekelder; ek is seker ses of sewe keer met net hoë adrenalienvlakke en 'n skoon gewete huis toe. Lekker *chicken*.

Totdat ek een dag besluit het genoeg is nou genoeg. Dis net 'n plakkaat; dis net A3; dis net swart en wit, so dit kon nie veel gekos het om te druk nie, en daar was 'n hele paar van die goed op kampus. Ek't een oggend voor honderde oë die ding gaan afhaal en dit later die middag teen my kamermuur gaan opplak, sommer met 'n skoon gewete en al.

Vir die res van 2007 het ek elke oggend met die woorde op dié plakkaat wakker geraak: Dit was 'n aankondiging om aansoek te doen vir die BPhil (Joernalistiek)-graad. Met aanhalings (wat ek nie kan onthou nie) van drie alumni (wat ek kan onthou), wat die kursus voltooi en die Crozierstraat 26-vlag daagliks laat wapper: Ainsley Moos, Susan Davis en Esmaré Weideman. Die kursus was iets wat ek begeer het, omdat dit my sleutel tot 'n beroep in die joernalistiek sou wees, en die plakkaat het my, eintlik onnodig, elke dag daaraan herinner.

Min het ek toe geweet dat ek wel in die klas van 2008 opgeneem sou word,

“  
Ek onthou  
ek het  
nog my  
oë gerol  
toe sy  
[my ma]  
gesê het  
“As jy  
inskryf, sal  
jy wen ...”

dit sou voltooi, vir twee jaar sonder werk sou sit, en myself noodgedwonge sou moes oorgee aan die reklame, waar ek (nou nog) as proefleser en kopieskrywer vir twee jaar lank 'n spul ontwerpers sou moes oortuig dat daar wel 'n verskil tussen 'n koppelteken en 'n aandagstreep is. Nog meer: Ek het nie geweet nie dat die einste Esmaré Weideman, wat my vir amper 'n jaar met 'n breë glimlag op “my plakkaat” gegroet het, in dieselfde tyd 'n idee vir 'n werklikheidsreeks – Saktyd – geskep het, en die reeks weekliks sedert Julie 2012 op kykNET (kanaal 144 op DSTv) een van die top-10 programme op die kanaal sou wees.

Natuurlik het ek ook nie geweet nie dat ek op 6 Oktober 2012 voor 'n gehoor van bykans 6 000 mense as die reeks se eerste wenner aangekondig sou word. En ja, ek sal verewig geterg word oor die trane wat ek voor al daai mense (en die massiewe kykNET-gehoor!) op twee ander Crozierstraat 26-alumni – Izelle Venter (*Huisgenoot*, *YOU* en *Drum* se hoofredakteur), en Haidee Muller (senior verslaggewer by *Huisgenoot*) – se skouers gestort het...

**M**aar kom ons begin heel voor: Reeds in Maart 2012 het my ma my historiese gebel en vertel van 'n kompetisie wat sy in *Huisgenoot* raak gelees het – 'n werklikheidsreeks wat 12 joernaliste met geen ondervinding in 'n nuwe sosiale speletjie op TV die kans sou gun om 'n pos by die land se grootste tydskrif los te skryf. Ek onthou ek het nog my oë gerol toe sy gesê het: “As jy inskryf, sal jy wen...”

Ná sy die volgende dag die advertensie self in my hande kom stop het (jammer, ek is nog gans te arm om 'n *Huisgenoot* te bekostig!), het ek lank oor die saak getob – 'n hele maand lank – voor ek besluit het om nie in te skryf nie. Behalwe dat



**BO:** Die beoordelaars saam met die top-2. Van links na regs: Wicus Pretorius (adjunkredakteur van *Huisgenoot*), Astrid Lippert-Fisher (naaswenner), Izelle Venter (hoofredakteur van *Huisgenoot*, *YOU* en *Drum*), Haidee Muller (senior verslaggewer by *Huisgenoot*) en ek.

**REGS:** 'n Kiekie uit die reeks. Ek en *Huisgenoot* se legendariese kosredakteur, Carmen Niehaus, besig om my flop van 'n malvapoeding te red.



ek myself heeltemal te vervelig vir 'n werklikheidsreeks geag het, was ek eintlik ná honderde aansoeke in die joernalistiek en nie eers een onderhoud nie, heeltemal te mismoenig om wéér te probeer. Ek het my besluit met my ouers op *whatsapp* gedeel. Alhoewel hulle ongelukkig was daaroor, het hulle dit so aanvaar.

Tog was ek nie gelukkig met my eie besluit nie. Dinge het net nie reg gevoel nie... en toe ek so paar dae voor die sluitingsdatum op Facebook gelees het dat aansoeke in stroom, het ek dadelik besef ek sou dom wees om nie myne ook in die stroom te gooi nie.

En toe stuur ek 'n aansoek in. En toe sif die vervaardigers deur meer as duisend aansoeke. En toe word ek saam met 99 ander vir 'n kamera-oudisie genooi. En toe is die onmoontlike vermag toe 100 na 33 na 14 verminder is... en toe was ek een van die 14. Al 14 is genooi, omdat die beoordelaars nie kon besluit watter twee hulle nog moet sny nie, en net 13 het uiteindelik die uitnodiging aanvaar – ek ook, wat weer oor die foon getjank het toe ek gehoor het ek is gekeur.

Binne 'n week het 'n kameraspan my woonstel oorgeneem om 'n profiel te skiet, ek moes vinnig by my baas smee om verlof (onbetaald – ek het die hele Junie net *two-minute noodles* geëet), ek het 'n bynaam gekry wat die ganse kykertal opgevreet het (dis nou net “rooibaard” voor en agter) en die reeks is amptelik tussen 14 Mei en 6 Junie 2012 verfilm.

Wat in daai amper-vier weke gebeur het, is eintlik vir my moeilik om te onthou – seker omdat die tempo van skryf en kompeteer en konkel en onderhoudvoer en kopkrap so ongelooflik vinnig verby was. Partykeer wonder ek nog of ek nie dalk alles in 'n droom ervaar het nie... maar dan sal ek in 'n winkelsentrum inloop en vreemdelinge sal my voorkeer met: “Ek het jou op TV gesien en dink ons is dalk verlangs familie,” of “Was ons nie jare terug saam op 'n *date* nie?” Nee, ons was definitief nie, Tannie. My gunsteling: 'n Vyfjarige dogtertjie wat net wou kom sê dat sy elke Dinsdagaand tussen 19:30 en 20:00 spesiaal laat opgebly het om my te sien... Ja, dan word ek herinner dat die avontuur wel 'n werklikheid was.

Tog wil almal weet: Is werklikheidstelevisie regtig so werklik? Was daar 'n teks? Het 'n gesoute joernalis vir ons gesê wat om in onderhoude te vra? Het subs ten minste ons artikels deurgewerk voor die beoordelaars dit so vel uitmekaar geruk het op TV? As 'n groot aanhanger van werklikheidstelevisie, het ek self al

partykeer hieroor gewonder, maar ek kan vandag onomwonde op al dié vrae antwoord: ja, dit is werklik, en nee, daar was geen teks of ander hulplyne nie. Soos Izelle (die hoofbeoordelaar) in die eerste episode gesê het: Daar was kameras om ons en ons was op TV, maar dit was nie eintlik waaroor dit gegaan het nie. *Saktyd* was 'n werksonderhoud – die strafste wat ek nog in my lewe ervaar het – wat vir die beoordelaars en die hele Suid-Afrika sou wys wat ons kon en nie kon doen nie. En dis presies wat die program gedoen het. Gaan vrouens my op straat voorkeer en vra watter naellak die beste by hul velkleur pas? Ná die mooimaaksessies wat die deelnemers op twee *Huisgenoot*-lesers moes doen, gaan hulle waarskynlik nie. Gaan enigiemand my malvapoedingresepsie wil hê nadat dit in 'n kosuitdaging in die reeks geflop het? Nee wat... Maar was die beoordelaars en meeste van die kykers oortuig dat ek kan skryf, 'n onderhoud kan voer, weekliks tot verskillende dele van die tydskrif kan bydra, hard kan werk, kan spel en nie bang is om myself te wees nie – 'n bleeksiel wat grappig in 'n span en stil-stil op my werk fokus om dit die beste te maak wat dit kan wees? Seker. Ek het tog gewen. Maar omdat ek daagliks nog in my eie nederigheid verdrink, sal dit nie iets wees wat ek sommer sal erken nie...

**O**or Crozierstraat 26 het ek baie voor, tydens en ná *Saktyd* gedink: Voor *Saktyd* was ek bang ek sleep die ou Edwardiaanse dame se naam deur die modder; tydens *Saktyd* het ek net weer besef dat ek meer in die gereedskap wat ek daar gekry het moet vertrou, en ná *Saktyd* kan ek nie genoeg my dankbaarheid teenoor haar uitspreek nie. Prof. Lizette Rabe moet natuurlik die meeste van hierdie dank kry. Met haar groot, bekende (berugte?) en baie rooi minus-vyfwe het ek leer spel; met haar oor geleer hoe om te luister; met haar hart geleer hoe om te begryp, en met haar moederlike leierskap regtig gesien hoe 'n formidabele span leerkrigte gemotiveerd bly om van die beste joernaliste op te lei. Ek dink nie dis te gewaagd om te sê dat ek waarskynlik nie *Saktyd* sou wen sonder haar en Crozierstraat 26 se leiding nie.

Vir lank, moet ek tog erken, het ek gevoel soos een van die (min) Crozierstraat 26-mislukkings: Ná bykans vier jaar kon ek nog nie 'n pos in die joernalistiek losslaan nie. Maar ek weet nou dat my pad net so klein bietjie wyer gedraai het as van my klasmaats s'n. En dit is OK, want ek het (uiteindelik) letterlik en figuurlik ook my eie *saktyd* gekry.



Banners in die MEDIAFRIKA building with wise words about journalism.

Students working in die well-equipped MEDIAFRIKA building.

PHOTOS: Stephanie Nieuwoudt

# MEDIAFRIKA

## *meets requirements of digital era*

A

fter working and lecturing in the new MEDIAFRIKA building for 15 months, Prof Lizette Rabe, former Chair of the Department of Journalism, says that the building meets the demands that the digital era makes on a journalism school.

Ever since her appointment as Chair of the Department in 2001, she submitted a plan every year for a new building, and it was finally approved in 2008 by the Rector, Prof Russel Botman, as part of the HOPE Project.

The new building with its huge glass walls and lots of metal was built as an extension of the Edwardian house in which the Department was accommodated for years and in which the staff's offices are still situated. The house in Crozier Street is a national monument.

“The old house simply does not have the capacity to meet the demands of a multimedia-environment,” Rabe says.

“Every time we had to install new power points I was panic-stricken that the building, with its raw brick walls, would collapse.”

The MEDIAFRIKA building has a multimedia lecture hall on the lower level, and the top floor is equipped with a multimedia newsroom, as well as audio and video editing studios.

Also on the ground floor is a recreational space where

MPhil-graduate

**STEPHANIE NIEUWOUTD**

... the new building... was built as an extension of the Edwardian house ...

”



PHOTO: Lezél Amoraal

“The building also had to convey inspirational messages about the role of journalism...”

students can make coffee – and that, as any person working in media will tell you, is indispensable for a journalist. A graffiti wall offers a creative space for drawings and slogans. Comfortable, modern couches add the finishing touches to the space.

In her strategic plan Rabe also referred to a UNESCO Summit on the Information Society, where the essential role that media play in the development of knowledge communities was highlighted. Emphasis was also placed on the idea that the “free flow of information by word and image is a prerequisite for social and economic development; and attempts to support media freedom must be supplemented by initiatives that build capacity to deepen professional standards, and to develop cross-disciplinary knowledge amongst people in the media.”

According to the strategic plan the Department could expand itself as academic institution and respected knowledge partner – in particular of the South African media. MEDIAAFRIKA would further create a space where colleagues from other African institutions, but also from elsewhere, could work together on research projects. This vision would become reality when R7 million was allocated for the new building.

To Rabe, the space with its big windows is symbolic of the ideal of transparency that the media needs to strive for. In this case the architect fulfilled the brief so well that too much sun is sometimes let in. However, blinds help to make the lecture hall more functional.

“The building also had to convey inspirational messages about the role of journalism – hence the installation art banners with quotes about journalism,” says Rabe.

One of the messages include these words of the late Prof Piet Cillié, a former newspaper editor and the first Head of the Department: “A newspaper must not only attempt to be a mirror of life, but also the X-rays that reveal what is going on beneath the surface.”

A few months after MEDIAAFRIKA was officially opened, a fire in the Wilcocks building left the History Department in ruins. The Journalism Department offered a temporary refuge to the staff.

“It was very apt to help the people of the History Department. Journalism is indeed history written in a hurry,” says Rabe.

This Department, that is considered one of the top 12 journalism schools on the continent, has 26 enrolled honours students, 45 master’s students, and a handful of doctoral students this year.

“We would like to remain a boutique style journalism school,” says Rabe.

“By remaining relatively small, we can focus more effectively on our postgraduate programmes and, at the same time, meet the demands of the knowledge - and technology revolution of the 21st century. Not only must we give a voice to the people who are traditionally voiceless but we also have an obligation to report responsibly about the animals and plants of our planet that are increasingly threatened.”



# My IRONMAN JOURNEY

EMMA DE VILLIERS  
Class of 2006

The first question is always, "why did you decide to do Ironman?" And the answer is always the same, "because it seemed an impossible feat".



End of 2011 I realised that work was consuming my life. I needed a challenge completely unrelated to the world of deadlines, chasing stories and the frantic newsroom environment. I also had a few things to prove. Not to my colleagues, the world or my friends. To myself. The Ironman ultra triathlon event was more than I could handle, but a childhood dream that I had always dreamt of achieving.

As my third decade on this planet drew to a close I figured that ticking this off my bucket list, was in perfect order, which meant I had five months to beat my body into shape for a race consisting of a 3.8km ocean swim, a 180km cycle and a 42km run.

After five months of training sessions twice a day, no social life, a strict eating plan and hours of mental preparation I found myself standing on a Port Elizabeth beach with close to 2 000 like-minded souls. Each and every one of us had our own reasons for tackling a journey that outsiders considered ludicrous, but the goal was the same.

As the starting gun fired, we embarked on the toughest Ironman race South Africa had seen up to date. It would later be dubbed Ironman Katrina. Gale force winds and pelting rain were our constant companions. Several times I found myself close to tears, moments in which I had the option of giving up. But not once did the thought of quitting cross my mind, not even during the marathon where I found myself in excruciating pain because of an ankle injury.

Finishing the race fifteen hours and forty minutes after I started, I wept as I crossed the finish line – for joy, for relief and out of sheer ecstasy.

The human spirit is stronger than any physical challenge life throws at us, and our dreams can propel us into the realm of the impossible. Ironman showed me that I can go further than I had ever imagined, and that the heart understands reasons that our words can never convey. This is Ironman – the impossible dream, the most beautiful experience and a journey that does not have to answer to the voice of reason.

“

The human spirit is stronger than any physical challenge life throws at us

”

# WETENSKAP

*gereflekteer*

deur 'n

'vuil spieël'

GEORGE CLAASSEN



at is die ooreenkoms tussen wetenskap en joernalistiek? En hoe bring jy die twee bymekaar?

Dié vraag het nogal relevansie as die status en posisie wat wetenskapjoernalistiek in die Suid-Afrikaanse media beklee – net een Suid-Afrikaanse media-instelling, die dagblad *Business Day*, beskik oor 'n toegewese wetenskapredakteur met 'n wetenskapredaksie – in ag geneem word.

Dié onaanvaarbare toestand van sake gaan hopelik binnekort verander. Die Suid-Afrikaanse Nasionale Redakteursforum (Sanef) het in 2011 'n wetenskapjoernalistieke bestuurskomitee saamgestel wat 'n doelgerigte poging aanwend om joernaliste op te lei om oor wetenskap en tegnologie verslag te kan doen.

Die komitee staan onder voorsitterskap van prof. George Claassen, hoof van die Departement Joernalistiek aan die Universiteit Stellenbosch tussen 1994 en 2001. Hy het in 1995 die eerste volwaardige kursus in wetenskapjoernalistiek by 'n tersiêre instelling in Afrika ontwikkel en bied steeds die kursus aan in die departement se nagraadse programme.

Claassen het in 2011 namens Sanef se Opvoedings- en Opleidingskomitee ná 'n studie deur 'n paneel van senior Sanef-lede voorstelle ter tafel gelê oor hoe wetenskapjoernalistiek 'n regmatige plek in die Suid-Afrikaanse media kan begin beklee. Die afwesigheid van toegewese en opgeleide wetenskapredakteurs en –afdelings in die plaaslike media is lank reeds 'n steen des aanstoets by wetenskaplikes wat kla dat die media nie weet hoe om oor wetenskap verslag te doen nie en net aandag aan politiek, sport, die ekonomie, kuns en ander sake gee en wetenskap afskeep.

In 2008 het 'n groep wetenskapverslaggewers in Suid-Afrika besluit om die World Federation of Science Journalists (WFSJ) te nader om hulp en is die Suid-Afrikaanse Vereniging vir Wetenskapjoernaliste (SAVWJ) op die been gebring met Claassen, 'n voormalige wetenskapredakteur van *Die Burger*, as eerste president, en die ervare Christina Scott van die Science Development Network as vise-president. Die SAVWJ het gegroei tot meer as 50 lede.

Claassen het danksy borgskappe deur die Departement Wetenskap en Tegnologie en SAASTA in November 2011 die eerste van 'n reeks wetenskapkommunikasie-werkswinkels

“

Wetenskaplikes kla dat die media nie weet hoe om oor wetenskap verslag te doen nie.

”

# 'vuil spieël'

## WETENSKAP

georganiseer. Met die hulp van wetenskaplikes soos die paleobioloog prof. Anusuya Chinsamy-Turan van die Universiteit van Kaapstad, dr. Jurie van den Heever van Stellenbosch, dr. Marianne Freiburger, mederedakteur van die tydskrif *Plus* aan die Cambridge-universiteit in Engeland, asook mediaspesialiste en wetenskapskrywers en –verslaggewers soos dr. Pedro Diederichs van die Tshwane Universiteit vir Tegnologie, Mia Malan van Rhodes-universiteit en die *Mail & Guardian*, Munyaradzi Makoni van Research Africa, die bekroonde ongewingsjoernaliste Jorisna Bonthuys van die WWF en Leonie Joubert, prof. Lizette Rabe, Hannelie Booysens, dr. Dawie van Velden en Claassen van die Universiteit Stellenbosch, is die *Science Meets the Media* in Stellenbosch-werkswinkel met groot sukses oor vyf dae aangebied. Dit is bygewoon deur byna 50 wetenskaplikes vanoor Suid-Afrika en 35 joernaliste. Die werkswinkel word in Maart 2013 weer in Stellenbosch aangebied.

**C**laassen is in 2010 deur Unesco, die opvoedings- en wetenskapafdeling van die Verenigde Nasies, genader om betrokke te wees by die opleiding van joernaliste vanoor die hele Afrika oor die fyner kuns van wetenskapverslaggewing. Hy het toe 'n kursus in Nairobi, Kenia aangebied en in September 2012 het hy die opleiding van wetenskapjoernaliste voortgesit tydens 'n kursus in Addis Ababa, Ethiopië. Die doel is om Afrika-joernaliste die tegniese vaardighede te bied om oor komplekse wetenskapkwessies soos klimaatsverandering, MIV/Vigs en ander gesondheidsprobleme, genoomnavorsing, die teenwoordigheid van kwakkery en pseudowetenskap in die samelewing verslag te kan doen. Aandag is ook gegee aan hoe die wetenskap funksioneer en waarom joernaliste deeglik moet kennis neem van die onsekerheid en voorlopigheid van wetenskaplike bevindings.

Intussen het Claassen in 2009 en 2010 'n omvattende landswye studie onderneem om die verhouding tussen Suid-Afrikaanse wetenskaplikes en die media vas te stel. Die resultate van die ondersoek is in November 2011 in die vaktydskrif *Communicatio* gepubliseer met die titel "Science and the media in South Africa: reflecting a 'dirty

mirror"'. Die studie het 740 wetenskaplikes en 360 joernaliste betrek. Die aanbevelings wat uit die studie gespruit het, het gelui:

"The survey conducted among South African scientists and journalists shows, on the one hand, that scientists need to build a personal relationship with science editors in order to make their research more accessible to the public, and they should also learn to communicate with the public. Yet scientists are in a quandary: the present situation and the status of science reporting in the country need urgent attention. The allocation of journalists who are untrained in science to scientific beats, and the rather haphazard reporting of science by mostly scientifically illiterate journalists, should be changed – this, in order to disseminate the results of science to the broader public. The virtual absence of South African journalism schools which teach science journalism (it features at only one university, with a further one teaching health journalism) should be addressed to be able to feed the media with well-trained science journalists. Furthermore, this study correlates with the findings of a 2011 study by the South African Science Journalists' Association, that science journalists in South Africa mostly report on health and environmental affairs, but that the formal structure of a science editor with designated, trained science journalists is virtually absent from the South African media, with the exception of a few internet health and agriculture websites (Claassen 2011). One cannot help but come to the conclusion that there must be a correlation between what Pouris (1991: 358–359) found about South African adults' ignorance about the scientific validity of astrology (32% believed 'astrology is very scientific'), and the fact that nearly every daily and weekend newspaper and many popular magazines in the country regularly publish an astrology column. The findings also indicate the need for further study into the effect which inaccurate scientific information and pseudoscience in the South African media might have on the public understanding of science. Furthermore, scientists should be far more willing to communicate with the public and the media, whereas scientific associations should emphasise the importance of their members communicating their findings through the media."

“

...scientists need to build a personal relationship with science editors in order to make their research more accessible to the public, and they should also learn to communicate with the public.



Borrie le Grange helps carry tents in Pakistan - Following the floods in 2010 in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, Sindh and Baluchistan provinces, MSF set up an emergency response.

PHOTO: Seb Geo

*No*

# BORDERS

BORRIE LA GRANGE

“

These are the simple building blocks of every news story, but also represent a conceptual toolkit that helps you...

When I walked out of a Johannesburg newsroom three years ago I wanted to know the answer to a simple question: Can I be more than just a journalist?

Ironically it was the six simple questions I learned to ask as a journalist that helped me find answers and deal with some of the complexity I would discover working as a communications professional with Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders [MSF].

What, who, where, when, why and how. These are the simple building blocks of every news story, but also represent a conceptual toolkit that helps you with strategic communication planning. These questions offer a way to interrogate objectives organisations have with their communication initiatives – everything from press releases to awareness campaigns and advocacy strategies. By asking these simple questions you are able to peel back the vagaries that come when NGO in-speak threatens to take over and to gain clarity of purpose.

Working for an international medical humanitarian organisation like MSF I had to learn an awful lot about public healthcare and international affairs in a very short time without the benefit of re-schooling myself according to a defined lesson plan. But because as a journalist you learn to persist with asking simple questions when faced with unfamiliar territory and complexity associated with expert knowledge, I was able to cope well.

During my time with MSF I have witnessed first-hand the struggles of conflict-affected people in Pakistan, Somali refugees in Kenya and Zimbabwean migrants in South Africa to get quality basic healthcare. Also that it is vital that the world, and South Africans, must know about this indignation – and that something can be done about it. It certainly has meant getting my hands dirty and renouncing the supposed objectivity of journalism, but I don't regret it for single day.

When you start out in journalism studies you will often hear yourself or classmates say: “I want to change the world.” During your career you'll have to fight the cynical instinct that says this is not possible. However, the lesson for me has been that journalism and working with journalists to tell the stories of people in distress around the world allows you to find a far more modest ambition with far-reaching consequences: It's not so much about changing the world but rather about changing the way we think about the world.

It's about changing our perspective to unlock individual and collective agency. It's all about using simple questions to combat the ignorance, indifference and making sure that when faced with human suffering the world cannot hide behind a shallow exculpatory statement trotted out for forgotten crises and neglected diseases: “I did not know”.

*Borrie la Grange (class of 2002) is Head of Communication for Doctors Without Borders South Africa. [www.msf.org.za](http://www.msf.org.za)*

# CAMINO *Francis*

ANRI VAN DER SPUY



By die silhouette-beelde op die pad tussen Pamplona en Puente la Reina.



Anri van der Spuy (BPhil-klas van 2007 en MPhil-klas van 2008) het onlangs die eeu-oue pelgrimstog na Santiago de Compostela (Spanje) te voet aangedurf. Die sogenoemde Camino Frances begin in St. Jean-Pied-du-Port in Frankryk, en eindig ongeveer 800 km - en vele blase, nuwe vriende, Spaanse wyn en tapas - verder in die stad Santiago de Compostela. Sy het egter aangeloop na Finisterre, nog 90 km verder op die weskus van Spanje. Dié tog het haar ongeveer 'n maand geneem.

**LINKS:** Saam met Duitse vriende op die katedraal-plein in Santiago de Compostela.

**REGS:** By die Cap de Ferra, Finisterre. Dié plek is oorspronklik geag as die 'einde van die wêreld', en was die natuurlike eindpunt. Die baken lees 'km 0.00'.



# Passion & persuasion

VANESSA SMEETS  
Class of 2010



Vanessa Smeets' picture on Lake Kariba won her best travel picture of the year, through an IOL competition.



Vanessa loves taking pictures of interesting people. This picture was taken in the Bo-Kaap, fascinated by how the woman's scarf matched the mosque she was coming from.



2010 marked a controversial year for Stellenbosch University, with the publication of its first gay kiss, taken by Vanessa Smeets. It was placed on *Die Matie's* front-page for being newsworthy (the first time the gay society took part).

"First love is only a little foolishness and a lot of curiosity."

George Bernard Shaw

My first love has always been journalism. Naturally curious as a child, I'd often find myself speaking to strangers and asking to take their pictures. Before coming to Crozier Street, I had the curiosity but not the passion to become a hardcore journalist. But after taking the "gay kiss" picture in July 2010, it stirred the passion in me to explore the world, photograph as much as possible and come back with adventurous tales.

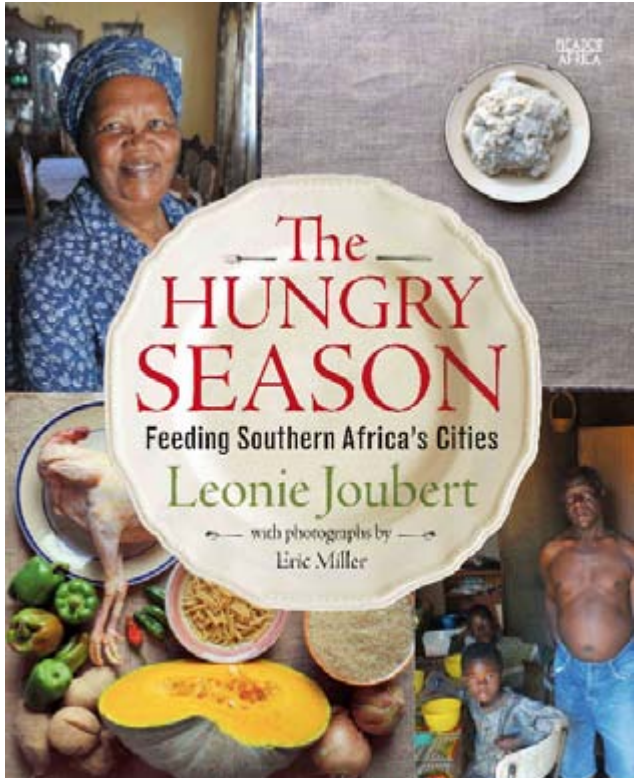
Just three weeks after *Die Matie's* controversial front-page, the two students photographed were involved in a terrible car accident, leaving one of them killed. It taught me to cherish present moments and inspired me to improve South African journalism. Many reporters had changed certain facts, gotten our names wrong or simply not asked for our sides of the story.

The passion in me went from a little flame of hope to a raging fire, entering as many photo and writing competitions as possible. I finally won IOL's best travel pic for a sunset on Lake Kariba and was awarded a scholarship by Tübingen University for an article I wrote about the values important to Zimbabwe's people.

Today, I use my story-telling skills in another way: by teaching pre-school children. They thrive on real stories about our history, geography or wildlife. I write regularly for News24. My blog *Chica Papillon* on [www.vsmets.wordpress.com](http://www.vsmets.wordpress.com), which I started while doing my BPhil is doing quite well at about 75 000 hits. Just like when I was little, it explores people, places and emotions. I've never seen journalism as a job, but as a craft. It's not just a flair for writing or a face for TV. It's a burning passion to inform, educate, resonate and stir debate. Ironically, I've been asked to write this piece for *Janus*, the two-headed Roman god of transitions of the same name, while looking both back and forward on my journalistic experience and what an incredible journey it has been thus far. There's magic in writing, forever causing transitions both back and forth.

**LEONIE JOUBERT**

**THE HUNGRY SEASON**



Science writer Leonie Joubert, a Master's-graduate of Stellenbosch University's journalism programme, recently released her latest book, *The Hungry Season: Feeding Southern Africa's Cities*. The book explores our relationship with food and how the food that we eat is as colourful as the cultures of the people eating it. But why we eat the way we do runs deeper than the whims of our traditions or palates.



In *The Hungry Season* Joubert travels into the lives of people in eight southern African places to trace the complex undercurrents driving food security in urban spaces: childhood stunting and malnutrition; the shift from traditional 'African' to 'Western' diets; illnesses associated with a modern diet; nutritional literacy, behaviour and choices; large scale food production and urban food gardens; poverty, joblessness and the geography of the city; urban planning, supermarkets and the full food value chain; and food wastage.

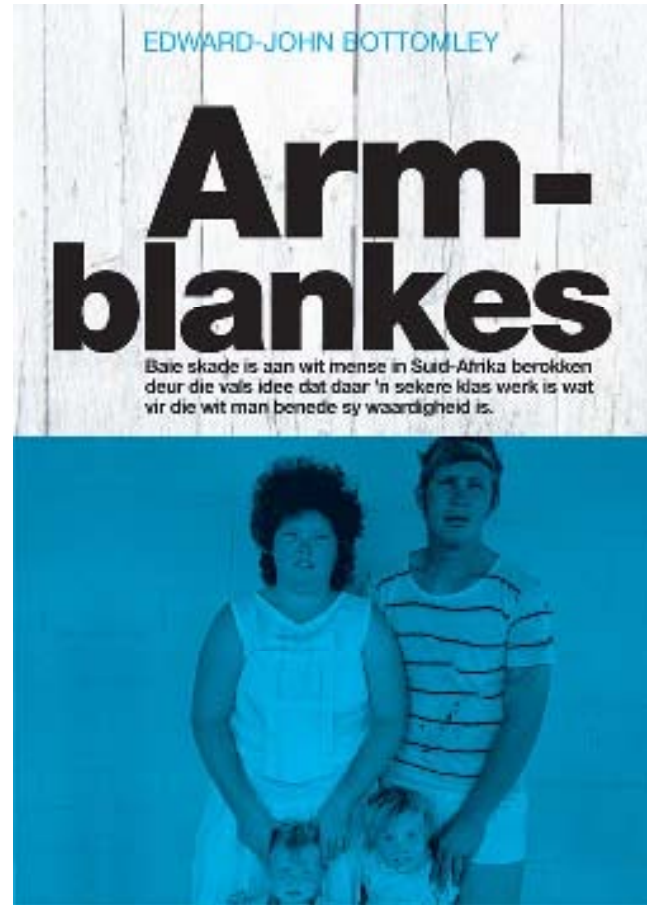
With photographs by acclaimed photographer Eric Miller, *The Hungry Season* looks at hunger and malnutrition in the city, hidden behind layers of affluence and comfort. It tackles the fundamental question: Why is it that southern Africa seems to produce enough calories and nutrients to keep the region full, satisfied and well nourished, and yet still has so many people living with hunger or the fear of hunger?

Political commentator and journalist Max de Preez says the book cuts through the smoke and mirrors of the national discourse to expose the heart of South Africa's problems: hunger and malnutrition.

'A revealing, engaging book that demands a shift in thinking and action,' says Du Preez.

**EDWARD-JOHN BOTTOMLEY**

**ARMBLANKES**



Weke voor die Sokker-wêreldbeker in 2010 het die *New York Times* 'n artikel gepubliseer oor die "onsigbare nuwe probleem in Suid-Afrika": arm wit mense. Volgens die artikel is hierdie "probleem" 'n nuwe een wat ontstaan het ná demokrasie.



Edward-John Bottomley neem hierdie stelling onder die loep en neem die leser op 'n reis deur 'n Suid-Afrikaanse landskap waar daar nog altyd arm wit mense (en veral arm Afrikaanse mense) was. Bottomley wys hoe Christenskap en politiek saamgespan het om die idee van "blankes" en 'n "Afrikaner-volk" te skep en sodoende armblanques van hulself te probeer red. Hy wys hoe die "gevaar" van armoede juis dit was wat die eenheid van politieke en Christelike mag sou kon breek: deur onwelkome kontak met ander rasse in Suid-Afrika se kookpot.

Met die koms van die apartheidsregering het dié denkwyse versterk en is areas soos Ruiterswacht geskep – "tuisstede" waar arm wit mense onder wakende oog van die regering kon leef. Wat armblanques interessant maak, sê Bottomley, is nie die feit dat hulle arm of wit is nie, maar die reaksie wat hulle bestaan uitlok onder dié wat die mag het.

**Edward-John Bottomley** (klas van 2006) is 'n bekende joernalis wat oor aktuele sake en die geskiedenis skryf. Sy artikels verskyn onder meer in *Sake24*, *Beeld*, *Die Burger*, *By en Sarie*. Bottomley het aan die US gestudeer, in Johannesburg gewerk, en in 2010 aan Cambridge in die Verenigde Koninkryk 'n meestersgraad voltooi oor die armblankevraagstuk.



Roné McFarlane, Byron Messaris, Suzaan Houman, Christa Rohwer en Willemien Brümmer.

PHOTO: Esté Beerwinkel

# BELYDENIS

van 'n

WILLEMEN BRÜMMER

## *PowerPoint-maagd*

**M**y oë is twee pierings toe ek myself in Februarie die eerste keer voorstel aan 2012 se BPhil-klas. As kind het ek onder my ma se romp weggekrui wanneer vreemdelinge wou groet. Vandag kan ek darem al “how do you do?” maar die idee van 'n lesing by my alma mater vervul my met 'n allesoorheersende ivoortoring-angs.

Bewapen met 50 PowerPoint-skyfies en 'n lesing wat ek omtrent vyftig keer, met verskillende gesigsuitdrukings, voor die spieël opgesê het, klik ek op die muis in die lesinglokaal. Ek hou my asem op. As PowerPoint-maagd glo ek, nee wéét ek, die tegnologie sal breek. Voor my geestesoo sien ek studente met visoë wat die een ná die ander wegdommel. Ek vrees die woedende toorn van Die Akademie.

Maar toe gebeur iets wat jy dalk net kan beskryf as toordery in Crozierstraat: Die studente begin saampraat en voor ek my kan kry, verander die “lesing” in 'n gesprek. Die grense tussen leerder en leermeester(es) vervaag. Ná 'n uur en 'n half het ek nog net deur vyf skyfies geklik – en niemand in die klas ly aan narkolepsie nie! 'n Paar dae later is die studente so entoesiasies dat ons amper in die plaaslike koerant beland. Ek betrek vyf dramastudente van oorkant-die-pad om karakters te vertolk in 'n misdaadriller getiteld “Bloedbad by Coetzenburg”. Ek verduidelik plegtig vir die studente dis 'n

“

As kind het ek onder my ma se romp weggekrui wanneer vreemdelinge wou groet. Vandag kan ek darem al “how do you do?”



“

En of ek nou wil of nie: Crozierstraat sal vir altyd soos 'n tweede vel aan my kleef.

fiktiewe oefening. Hulle moet met die drama-studente onderhoude voer om agter die kap van die byl te kom.

Die ywerige speurhonde vind gou uit die oudmodiese dr. Lizette Weiss is skynbaar dié oggend in die binnenshuise swembad by Coetzenburg gestamp ná 'n beweerde rasse-ondersoek. Net voor die aanvang van hul klas het sy “gesterf weens inwendige bewerings”.

**C**rozierstraat 26 maak sy eerste eenvrou-betoging van die “ANC-jeugliga” mee en die ietwat aangeklamde “polisiewoordvoerder” sukkel om te onderskei tussen “is” en “are”. Die adrenalien skop in en die studente stamp en stoot aan mekaar in hul ywer om die beste storie te kry.

Teen die einde van die snikhete middag roep Superwoman Newman my in. Die kantoor van Gugu Ntuli, hoofuitvoerende beampte van SUSPI (die US se Sport Performance Institute), het gebel. “They are not amused,” sê Elizabeth.

Dit blyk 'n groepie studente het my lesse van vroeër die week dat jy moet wegstam van telefoonjoernalistiek en hoorsê ter harte geneem. Hulle het voet-in-die-hoek gesit na Coetzenburg en aangedring op 'n onderhoud met Ntuli. Toe laasgenoemde niks weet van 'n swembad vol bloed nie, het hulle aangehou sy “weerhou inligting”. Indien ons Rykie en die hele dramadepartement die besonderhede van die bloedbad by Coetzenburg ken, het hulle geredeneer, is die ganse Stellenbosch tog in op die ding.

Ek moes net keer of nóg 'n groepie studente jaag na die MediClinic om die ontslape dr. Weiss se dokter op te spoor.

Ná 'n vriendelike oproep of twee na Coetzenburg, en natuurlik 'n druiptert-brief van die studente aan Ntuli, smelt die metaforiese ys om die ivoortoring. Vir die eerste keer in my joernalistieke loopbaan word ek iets anders as 'n skrywer: Ek word 'n hoeder, 'n deurwagter en 'n babawagter. Ek word 'n stuurvrou wat die studente na die skimmeryk van stories begelei. Ek word self 'n student wat elke dag meer leer as wat ek ooit vir “my klas” sou kon leer.

Toe ek aan die einde van die jaar die laaste keer my PowerPoint aanskakel, besef ek 'n kringloop is voltrek. Die meeste van die studente het in eie reg skrywers geword. Oor vyf jaar van nou sal van hulle my base word. Van die ander sal dalk my werk steel.

Maar dis oukei, want Crozierstraat het vir een van die onthoubaarste jare van my lewe gesorg. Ek het geleer daar's meer betekenis in onderrig as in ego. Dat 'n gemeenskap meer waardevol is as 'n joernalistieke eiland.

En of ek nou wil of nie: Crozierstraat sal vir altyd soos 'n tweede vel aan my kleef.

## ALUMNI NEWS

**Erika Oosthuysen (Class of 1984)** is Non-fiction Publisher at NB Publishers in Cape Town, a division of Media24 Books. This year, I have had an exceptionally rewarding and interesting year, publishing books as divergent as Hermann Giliomee's *The Last Afrikaner Leaders*, *MasterChef: The Book* and Xolela Mangcu's biography of Steve Biko. *Biko: A Biography* is a personal



career highlight for me, along with a new series of digital-only short books which is launching in November. Tafelberg Kort/ Tafelberg Short will feature current affairs and history in a short, punchy format, longer than traditional journalism allows but shorter than a full-length book. Authors range from RW Johnson to Aubrey Matshiqi, Rian Malan, Ferial Haffjee and Dana Snyman. Click on [www.tafelberg.com/shortbooks](http://www.tafelberg.com/shortbooks) to see the full range of topics tackled in the launch offer of this new genre. Erika is married to Charl de Villiers (class of 1987), an environmental practitioner, and they have two daughters, Mila and Klara.

**Charl de Villiers** werk die afgelope tien jaar as omgewingsraadgewer. Hy fokus veral op die geïntegreerde bestuur en volhoubare benutting van riviere op

## ALUMNI-NUUS



plase. Hy was vroeër betrokke by die Botaniese Vereniging van Suid-Afrika se 'Biodiversity in EIA'-projek en die programme vir die bewaring van fynbos en grasvelde van die SA Nasionale Biodiversiteitsinstituut (SANBI). Charl dien ook as eksterne dosent by die drie Wes-Kaapse universiteite.

# WEL & wee

- **Ronel Bester** (klas van 2001) is nou Strategiese Verhoudingsbestuurder vir die Dekaan van die Fakulteit Gesondheidswetenskappe. Dit is 'n nuwe pos wat geskep is. Ronel het onlangs haar MBA *cum laude* geslaag.
- *Janus* dink aan **Piet Grobler** (klas van 1990) wat sy vrou en dogtertjie in 'n motorongeluk in Gauteng verloor het. Alhoewel niemand hulle in so 'n situasie kan indink nie, is ons gedagtes steeds by die bekende alumnus.
- Ons dink ook aan **Adri-Louise van Renen** (klas van 1987), redakteur van *Lig* en *Die Kerkbode* wat ernstige gesondheidsprobleme ondervind. Intussen het sy ook vreugde ervaar toe sy met Danny Fourie, Bybel-Media se publikasiehoof, in die huwelik bevestig is.
- (Prof) **Johannes de Villiers** (klas van 1999) is aangestel as die Rykie van Reenen-genoot vir 2013. **Willemien Brümmer** (klas van 1998) het die pos die afgelope jaar, met groot onderskeiding, gevul.
- Ander alumni wat vanjaar deelyds vir die BPhil-studente klassee is:
  - Arlene Prinsloo** (klas van 1988) Koerantuitleg,
  - Sarietha Engelbrecht** (klas van 2006) Sosiale Media;
  - Le Roux Schoeman** (klas van 2001) Multimedia;
  - Tessa van Staden** (klas van 1998) Radiojoernalistiek;
  - Carine Visagie** (klas van 2002) Gesondheidsjoernalistiek,
  - Ryk van Niekerk** (klas van 1996) Finansiële Joernalistiek en
  - Marisa Honey** (klas van 1985) Editing.
- **Ainsley Moos** (class of 2002) is the new Group Head of Communication at Sanlam.
- **Waldimar Pelser**, (class of 2000) has been appointed senior deputy editor of *Rapport*.
- Baie geluk aan ons radiodoseant, **Tessa van Staden** wat onlangs op die MTN Radio-toekenningsgeselligheid as beste nuusleser aangewys is!
- **Gillian Turner** (class of 1999) has recently been promoted to Joint Head of Marketing at ENS (Africa's largest law firm). Gillian left journalism in 2005 after working at *Independent Newspapers* for five years. She has been part of the marketing team at ENS for more than six years, performing various roles such as media liaison and events, and she now heads up the marketing department at ENS's Cape Town office. She is extremely grateful for the education she received from the Stellenbosch Journalism Department, both under Bun Booyens and George Claassen for her BHonsJourn, and under Lizette Rabe for her MPhil.
- **Dr Billy Trengove** is op 16 Desember 2012 oorlede. Huldeblyke is op bladsy 3 en 4.
- **Kristen van Schie** (class of 2010) environmental journalist at *The Star* received a Merit Award for Print and New Media at the function presented by SAB.



## Mediageskiedenis 'n fassinerende veld

**Francois Verster** het sy MPhil (Joernalistiek) in 2010 behaal. Hy skryf gereeld vir verskeie publikasies. Diegene wat in Kaapse geskiedenis belangstel, kan in elke week se *Bolander*, en nou in dan ook in *Paarl Post* daaroor lees. Francois het 'n MA in Geskiedenis asook 'n DPhil in Kultuurgeskiedenis.

Verder kan alumni wat in Naspers se geskiedenis belangstel hom gerus hieroor kontak by francois.verster@media24.com. Hy is besig om 'n galery van groot name uit Naspers se geskiedenis in verskillende lokale in Heerengracht 40 aan te bring, wat ná voltooiing dalk 'n onderwerp vir 'n werkstuk vir mediahistorici/studente kan wees.

Mediageskiedenis is 'n fassinerende veld en dit lê nog grootliks braak. Hy hoop meer studente sal in hierdie rigting gaan. Hulle mag geïnspireer word as hulle boeke oor Piet Cillié (JC Steyn), Schalk Pienaar (Alex Mouton) en Rykie van Reenen (Lizette Rabe) lees.

## Vyfde geslag Matie ontvang joernalistiekgraad

'n Vyfde geslag Matie, me Estée de Villiers, spog met 'n bloedlyn wat van die 1870's kom. Sy het haar BPhil-graad in die Joernalistiek op Donderdag 29 Maart 2012 van die Universiteit Stellenbosch ontvang.

Dis nie net die Matie-bloed wat sterk in haar are vloei nie, maar ook die drukkersink. Estée se pa, wyle mnr Louis de Villiers, wat in 1995 oorlede is, het in die 1970's aan die US studeer en in 1981 dieselfde kursus as Estée in joernalistiek gedoen (destyds onder Piet Cillié). Hy het as joernalis by onder meer die SAUK en die *Sunday Independent* gewerk.

Haar ouma, die 90-jarige dr Helene de Villiers (née Oosthuysen), 'n inwoner van Azaleahof in Stellenbosch, was die eerste vroulike redakteur van die *Stellenbosse Student*. Sy was later bekend as vertaler en sprokieskenner. Sy het van 1939-1944 op Stellenbosch studeer waar sy ook op die Studenteraad gedien het. Haar man, prof Jan Lodewyk de Villiers, het van 1940 aan die Teologiese Kweekskool studeer en was van 1969 tot sy aftrede in 1987 dosent by die Kweekskool. Prof De Villiers is in 2009 oorlede.

Estée se opagrootjie, ds Jacobus Christiaan Christoffel Oosthuysen, was dr De Villiers se pa. Ds Oosthuysen het aan die Teologiese Seminarium tydens die jare van die Eerste Wêreldoorlog studeer

Sy skoonpa, met ander woorde Estée se groot opagrootjie, ds Herman Frederik Schoon – was die eerste 'Matie' – wat aan die Teologiese Seminarium in die 1870's studeer het. *(Matieland)*



For bad guys, all roads eventually lead to

# The Hague

JAN HENNOP  
Class of 1994

The expectant murmurs among a packed public gallery stopped at once as the court orderly walked in to pronounce the all familiar: "All rise! The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia is now in session."

But June 3 last year was no ordinary day in court.

Separated only by a glass wall, I watched as the UN guards in their blue uniforms marched in a man whose name I have only heard on television as a young journalism student in 1994.

That man was Ratko Mladic, accused of leading Europe's worst massacre since World War II when his Bosnian Serb army troops in 1995 slaughtered almost 8,000 Muslim men and boys at a place which has become synonymous with the suffering during Bosnia's three-year war: Srebrenica.

There were others as well. A year later I watched as Special Court for Sierra Leone judges handed down a 50-year sentence to former Liberian president Charles Taylor, whose regime's last days I was lucky enough to cover in Monrovia in 2003.

Radovan Karadzic, Thomas Lubanga, Jean-Pierre Bemba, Goran Hadzic and even former Ivorian leader Laurent Gbagbo -- they are all here in The Hague either on trial or getting ready to do so as the wheels of International Justice slowly but surely grind forward.

It has been almost two years since my family and I swapped the sunny East London coastline for the chill of an oncoming European winter in the Netherlands. For us it has taken a while to get use this continent's quirks at times. Although we dearly miss South Africa, for now we would not have wanted it any other way.

Personally too, I feel a deep sense of satisfaction to be able to write about the world's worst baddies and see them face the justice many of them so richly deserve.

“

...a man whose name I have only heard on television as a young journalism student...

”

# Mail&Guardian: 200 Young South Africans 2012

## JANINE JELLARS

Class of 2005

EDITOR: SEVENTEEN MAGAZINE

“I really want your job,” said Janine Jellars to Khwezi Magwaza, then editor of Seventeen magazine, at a fashion event in 2009. So when Magwaza was planning to resign from her day job, guess who she called up? Jellars went from features writer at *Fair Lady* and *Elle* to editor of *Seventeen* in 2011 at the age of 27, five years ahead of her plan. After a BA in international relations at Stellenbosch University, her determination and hard work got her into the postgraduate journalism programme with a Media24 scholarship; she won the Media24 Editor’s choice award in 2009. Cape Town-born Jellars does not consider her job to be simply about putting a teen magazine together. “As clichéd as it is, I really want to empower young women and make them fearless.” With her sights set on being a talk-show host, it’s only a matter of time before we’ll be tuning in to her brand of empowerment.

- Zeenat Mohamed



PHOTO: Debra Roets



PHOTO: Sam Reinders

## MPUMELELO MKHABELA

Class of 1999

EDITOR: THE SOWETAN

It’s no small task to steer *The Sowetan*, a historic title anchored in brave journalism. After a wave of upset and a consequent reshuffling of editorial ranks, Avusa chose Mpumelelo Mkhabela to maintain the paper’s position and to drive its prestige forward. Mkhabela proved his editorial integrity, deep sense of civic journalism and understanding of the synergy between print and digital media as editor of *The Daily Dispatch*. Before that, he garnered respect through his shrewd political analysis and in-depth exposés at *City Press* and the *Sunday Times*, and as deputy editor of *The Sunday Independent*. Unafraid to ask the tough questions or put controversial issues on the front page, he is driven “by the pursuit of truth – however inconvenient”. He believes the media have a duty to continue to building society by being the voice of reason. It is for this reason, among many, that Mkhabela stands at the helm of a new age at *The Sowetan*.

- Lu Larché

## ERNS GRUNDLING

Class of 2002

WRITER

Erns Grundling is an adrenaline junkie with an appetite for adventure, an interest in covering offbeat stories in off-the-radar towns and an aptitude for penning these with heart in rich, smart and vibrant Afrikaans. With an honours degree in journalism from Stellenbosch University, Grundling worked at Litnet, *Insig* and *Huisgenoot* before landing his ultimate job as features writer at *Weg!* magazine. It’s a role that has him on the road, uncovering the quirkiest, craziest stories of South African life – like his feature on the 24 hours he spent with a long-haul truck driver, is his profile on the last-standing manual telephone exchange operator in Winburg. Since 2006, the inventiveness of his topics, his fly-on-the-wall reporting and effervescence of his writing have earned Grundling one Mondi, two Picas and four AKTV Mediaadvertjie Awards. Grundling is the co-editor of Afrikaans e-zine *Ons Klyntji*, and co-hosts *The Unhappy Hour* on Bush Radio on Sunday nights.

- Lu Larché



PHOTO: Media007



Agter van links: Erns Grundling, Carel van Dyk, Sophia van Taak, Gerjo Hoffman, Esma Marnewick, Susan Davis, Leona Amoraal, Tobie Wiese  
Op die bank sit (van links): Yvonne Beyers, Jeanne Calitz, Dr. Billy Trengove, Jurg Slabbert, Almari Wessels en Borrie le Grange.

# Reünie

## KLAS VAN 2002

Drie alumni – Carel van Dyk, Sophia van Taak en Eunice Visagie – deel hulle ervarings van Crozierstraat met huidige en toekomstige alumni.

### Die een ding wat ek in Crozierstraat geleer het

**CvD:** Die hantering van onmoontlike druk, is en die een ding wat ek vandag nog oor dankbaar is en my help in my dagtaak. Jaag daai studente en druk hulle dat hul oë traan!

**SvT:** Ek het sekerlik baie meer as net een ding daar geleer. Maar as ek nou iets moet uitsonder:

'n Handvol van ons jaargroep se studente is nog steeds baie goeie vriende en van ons werk al geruime tyd by dieselfde publikasie. En daar is definitief 'n gemene deler: 'n ontsag vir woorde, 'n inge oefende aanvoeling vir hoe teks moet vloei, waardering vir 'n paragraaf wat iets só raakvat dat dit jou tranerig maak. Hierdie tegnieke het sekerlik oor jare in die bedryf hulself in elkeen van ons kom tuismaak, maar die Joernalistiek-departement het definitief die fondasie daarvoor gelê. Dit was vir my kosbaar om myself in 2002 in 'n groep enersdenkende mense se midde te bevind – ons was in wese eintlik maar elkeen 'n *nerd*, en ek wil glo dat ons in daardie jaar saam by die departement vir mekaar 'n tuiste was, 'n *homecoming* waartydens hegte vriendskappe op 'n gemeenskaplike belangstelling in en aanvoeling vir die geskrewe woord geskoei is.

**EV:** Dat ek tot baie meer in staat is as wat ek myself krediet voor gee. Aanpasbaarheid is ook 'n belangrike eienskap wat ek aangeleer het.

### Die een ding wat ek móés leer

**CvD:** Daar is niks wat ek agterna in die leerplan gemis het nie. Ek sien die departement fokus deesdae sterk op multimedia, so julle

is op die regte pad en in pas met realiteit.

**SvT:** Om te fokus en onder druk te werk. Daar was nie tyd vir spelletjies nie, ons is aan die diep kant ingegooi en moes heeljaar lank aanhou water trap. Geen werk by enige publikasie waar ek al was, het enigsins so stresvol gevoel soos daardie jaar nie. Ons móés eenvoudig leer swem. En dié vaardighede is nou in ander terreine van die lewe ook nuttig.

**EV:** Hoe om my tyd te bestuur

### Die een ding wat vandag se Crozierstraat-studente moet leer

**CvD:** Gooi hulle toe onder die werk, want daardie druk en die aanleer van die vermoë om massas inligting te verwerk op 'n effektiewe manier én waarde toe te voeg deur addisionele bronne en invalshoeke, dit visueel vir verskillende platvorms te verpak soos nodig, is wat vandag se verslaggewer moet kan doen. Ongeag die platvorm, geld die ou beginsel om nooit ou nuus weer vir die leser terug te braak nie en dus die groot uitdaging vandag is: nuus se vervaldatum raak al hoe korter.

**SvT:** Daar word ongelukkig nie 'n waarde geheg aan die emosionele energie wat 'n joernalis in 'n storie inploeg nie. Ek voel dit is 'n leemte in die *system*, maar hoe sal 'n mens ook nou te werk gaan om só iets reg te stel? Dus: die *job* betaal nie in rand nie. Maar wel in lewenservaring, in mensekennis, en avonture en gedagtes en vreemde gebeure waarmee jy nie sommer in enige ander beroep sal paaie kruis nie.

**EV:** Jy is in die beste leerskool wat daar is, gebruik elke kans en moenie bang wees nie.



**RYKIE VAN REENEN-GENOTE:** 'n Aantal Rykie van Reenen-genote het op 26 Oktober, die laaste klasdag vir die BPhil's, deelgeneem aan die tweede Rykie-konferensie. Die teenwoordiges was Tobie Wiese, Willemien Brümmer, Gawie Botma, Lizette Rabe, Johan Retief, Hannelie Booyens, Jacolette Kloppers, Jo-Ann Floris, Gert Coetzee. Die konferensie bestaan uit 'n oggendseminaar saam met die BPhil's waarin die klas vir oulaas op werklikhede van die joernalistiek voorberei word. Die middag konfereer al die Rykies met die personeel oor die uitdagings in die joernalistiek-onderrig.



**RYKIE VAN REENENSTRAAT:** So ontdek AJ Opperman (BPhil 2011), een van Rykie van Reenen se grootste fans, 'n hele buurt in Bloemfontein met skrywersname. In AJ se eie woorde: "Ek ry verlede jaar in Desember as passasier in Langenhovenpark, Bloemfontein en ontdek die skrywersgevoel wat die woonbuurt het. Om elke hoek en draai het ek my omtrent aan rusverstoring skuldig gemaak. En toe kom daar nog 'n straatnaam: Rykie van Reenenstraat. En onlangs het ek teruggekeer na die Vrystaat vir die Vryfees, en ek het dié keer seker gemaak 'n fotograaf maak ook 'n draai in die einste straat." En siedaar, AJ en Rykie ontmoet mekaar.



## ALUMNI NEWS

## ALUMNI-NUUS

Niel Bekker (Class of 2006) is a production manager for the Huffington Post in New York. He currently lives in Brooklyn, New York.



### 1. What does your work at the Huffington Post entail?

As a product manager for the Huffington Post, I work with an amazing team of coders and designers to create new interactive features – games, quizzes, anything fun – for our users on the world wide web. You might not call this journalism *per se*, but the Huffington Post can be seen as an eco-system for news, so you might say we are building online products and services that use the news as a kind of infrastructure. My main job is to think like a user of the site, and with that in mind, decide what features go into the latest product we're building and how it will work.

### 2. What is the best challenge of your work?

I'd say the *hardest* part of my job is designing things to be foolproof. It's much harder than you think to anticipate how people might misunderstand some aspect of what you're building. The part I enjoy the most is learning

about how the internet is put together, which I get to do every day since I'm such a newbie to the tech world!

### 3. What should current students at Crozier Street learn about journalism/social media?

I would love for our students to be introduced to the basics of computer programming – not HTML but actual high level coding languages like Ruby on Rails or JavaScript – in order to demystify the fundamental building blocks of the internet. For far too many journalists, technology is a mysterious black box, something you might use everyday but never fully understand or participate in. I would love it if the next Twitter or Facebook were invented by a journalist.

### 4. Have you seen any celebrities since you've been in New York?

I saw Sam Rockwell once at my local coffee place. When I tell people this, their reaction is usually: "Who is Sam Rockwell?"