



UNIVERSITEIT  
STELLENBOSCH  
UNIVERSITY

# e-Matieland

SUMMER 2016 • #1

## FROM THE ALUMNI OFFICE

The campus is filled with thousands of new students focused on the opportunities that 2016 will bring. As we welcome them at the start of their academic journey, we also say goodbye to our graduates in March. These Maties demonstrate our motto “a sound education strengthens the spirit”, which the University remains committed to. Access to funding for higher education remains part of the current national discourse in South Africa. Various initiatives are underway to ensure that all of us can make a contribution to supporting the next generation of Maties. The #RegisterALL campaign is one such initiative which is driven by Maties for Maties for the benefit of our future professionals. There are many ways that alumni can give back - we look forward to finding ways to achieve our common goals for our alma mater together with you. From 4 – 7 March, we welcome back all alumni to Matieland as we host the inaugural Homecoming Weekend. Visit [www.matiesalumni.com](http://www.matiesalumni.com) for all of the details. So, get your maroon on and come and enjoy the Homecoming weekend with us. Always a Matie!



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# NEWS in short

## Researcher honoured with AU science prize

The African Union (AU) has bestowed one of its highest scientific honours upon agricultural engineer and postharvest technology expert Prof Umezuruike Linus Opara. He received the AU Kwame Nkrumah Continental Scientific Award for senior researchers at the annual African Union Summit in Ethiopia. Prof Opara, who hails from Nigeria, is the holder of the DST-NRF South African Research Chair in Postharvest Technology, and distinguished professor in the Department of Horticultural



Science at SU. His multi-disciplinary research team is the leading group worldwide working on postharvest practices that improve the postharvest handling, packaging and marketing of pomegranate fruit.

## SU experts score A-ratings



Prof Willem Visser, an expert in software engineering, and Prof Mark Cotton, a specialist in the field of paediatric infectious diseases, have received a prestigious A-rating from the National Research Foundation. A-ratings are aimed at researchers who are acknowledged by their

peers as leading international scholars in their respective fields for the high quality and impact of research outputs. Prof Visser, only the second computer scientist in SA to receive an A-rating from the NRF, was honoured for his work in the testing and analysis of

computer software. Prof Cotton is the fourth researcher at the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences to obtain an A-rating. He is the Director of the Children's Infectious Diseases Clinical Research Unit at the FMHS and the Tygerberg Children's Hospital.

## 'Honest, open discussions needed'

Let us take the time to listen to each other, talk honestly and openly and work together to take Stellenbosch University (SU) forward. This was the message to more than 1 000 former Maties who attended the annual meeting of SU's Convocation. Speakers were the renowned poet and author, Breyten Breytenbach, SU alumna, Lovelyn Nwadeyi and

SU Rector and Vice-Chancellor, Prof Wim de Villiers.

WATCH:



Lovelyn Nwadeyi



Breyten Breytenbach



Prof Wim de Villiers



## Events

4 - 7 March  
Maties Homecoming and Family Weekend  
Contact: alumni@sun.ac.za  
Web: <http://www.matiesalumni.com>

4 - 13 March  
SU Woodfees  
Contact  
Tel: 021 886 5036  
E-mail: [woord@sun.ac.za](mailto:woord@sun.ac.za)  
Web: <http://www.sun.ac.za/english/woordfees>

5 - 6 April  
Investment Seminar STIAS  
Contact: [wjc@sun.ac.za](mailto:wjc@sun.ac.za)

## #RegisterALL initiative helps with student fees

The Student Representative Council (SRC) has started an initiative to assist students accepted for studies at SU, but who do not have the means of paying the initial study fees. The #RegisterALL fund relies on voluntary donations and the SRC has called on the Maties community and the public to contribute.

"The issue of unaffordable registration fees is not only applicable to SU, but to the country as a whole. With this initiative, we say that we are willing to be part of the solution. Your contribution can make a difference and help us to register all," said James de Villiers, SRC Vice-chair.

The Management of SU has lent its support to this initiative. Supporting

**#RegisterALL**  
#AccessToALL

this initiative will be above and beyond the financial support already given to students in financial need. In 2016, SU will pay out more than R650 million in bursaries.

### Would you like to donate ?

Standard Bank  
Stellenbosch University  
Account Number: 073 006 955  
Branch code: 050610  
Reference: RegisterALL - H494



[Click here for video](#)

## Prof honoured for raising TB awareness



Distinguished Professor of Paediatrics and Child Health, Robert Gie, has been honoured with the 2015 Princess Chichibu Global Tuberculosis (TB) Memorial Award in recognition of his international work in childhood

tuberculosis. The annual award, presented by the Japan Anti-Tuberculosis Association, in collaboration with The International Union against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease, is given to someone who has shown

remarkable achievement in the global fight against TB.

### Did you know?

According to the WHO, 140 000 children a year die of TB, a curable disease. In South Africa,

40 000 cases of childhood TB were reported in 2013.

# NEWS in short

## Success for HOPE@Maties learners

Eight learners on the Western Cape Education Department merit list and five on the top 20 list of the Northern Cape Department of Education were part of the 2015 HOPE@Maties programme. Approximately a third of the group obtained A symbols in Mathematics and Physical Sciences and almost

50% did so in Accounting. In 2015, a total of 245 learners from six centres in the Western Cape and 110 learners from the Northern Cape attended this programme presented by the Centre for Pedagogy (SUNCEP) in the Faculty of Education. Through this university preparation programme, learners

are offered additional tuition in specific subjects during their Grade 12 year.



[On the web](#)



[021 808 3483/2274](tel:02180834832274)



# NEWS in short



## Ready, steady, go!

Since obtaining his degree in 2012, alumnus Nicholas Pereira has made great strides in his career. Pereira, who graduated as a physiotherapist, lives in Pietermaritzburg where he practices at EAP Active and local PSL football club, Maritzburg United. In 2015, he was called up as the head physiotherapist for Bafana Bafana for an African Nations Championships qualifier. That same year he was appointed by the South African Hockey Association as the head physiotherapist for the Men's Indoor Hockey side that participated in the Federation of International Hockey Indoor World Cup in Germany. Pereira is also the head physiotherapist for the South African Men's under 21 hockey team scheduled to participate in the African qualifiers in March and the World Cup in December.

"I'm incredibly grateful for the opportunities. Much of my achievements up until this point in my career can be attributed to the support of my family and friends, hard work, sacrifice and the skills taught to me as an undergraduate at the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences."



## Bursaries for postgraduate students

Bursaries funded by Schroders' Multi-asset Investments and Portfolio Solutions (MAPS) division have been awarded to five postgraduate students in the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science in 2016. Schroders is a global asset management firm which has been developed under stable ownership for over 200 years. It is one of the largest independent investment management firms listed on the

London Stock Exchange. From 2017, Schroders and individual contributors will:

- Provide 40 full postgraduate bursaries over a two year period in the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science as well as in the wider Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences, with preference given to students coming from disadvantaged backgrounds;
- offer twenty R20 000 awards for

the best research proposals in finance;

- support joint research projects on new topics as well as further research on existing MAPS papers;
- establish an investment forum for students aimed at debating trends in investment management; and
- fund a yearly high-profile investment seminar featuring international experts.

## Election of Council Members

Members of the Convocation have been notified that three vacancies have arisen on the University Council, owing to the expiry of the term of office of Dr JP (Koos) Bekker, Prof DP (Prieur) du Plessis and Mr PJ (Piet) le Roux, who were duly elected as members of the Council by the Convocation for

the term 02 April 2012 to 01 April 2016. A fourth vacancy has since arisen due to the resignation of Dr GC (George) du Toit, who was elected as Council member of the University, by the Convocation for the period 02 April 2014 to 01 April 2018. This vacancy will be handled and filled after this election process

has been finalised. Members of the Convocation were requested to submit nominations in order to fill these three vacancies. As more than three candidates have been nominated, an election is being held.

- How to vote:



# Inspiring Graduates

Some 5020 Maties were rewarded for their hard work with degrees and diplomas at SU's December graduation ceremonies, among them outstanding achievers who proved that perseverance is key to success.



**Dr Erna Blancquaert**, a lecturer in viticulture at SU, became the first black South African to receive a doctorate in Viticulture. She grew up surrounded by the vineyards of the Paarl and was always curious about the wording on wine bottle labels. These influences inspired her to pursue a career in the wine industry, and in the process to play a pioneering role in it.



**Elna Dürr**, a visually-impaired Maties Parasport athlete, completed her studies with the help of computer software and braille and obtained a Masters' degree in Psychology. Dürr also achieved her sporting goals in 2015 - breaking the South African 100 m record (T12), improving her personal best times in both the 100 m and 200 m and increasing her overall strength.



For **Regina Bessick** of Delft on the Cape Flats, her Master of Divinity degree is undeniable proof that where there's a will, there is a way. Bessick (50), a divorced mother and grandmother, started her studies at SU as a middle-aged woman under great financial pressure. She previously worked as a housekeeper, cashier, packer and even a security guard, and says she's a firm believer that perseverance is key.



**Jevonn Cloete** from Rooifontein in Namaqualand received his B.Ed degree cum laude. With his father employed as a taxi driver and his mother as a domestic worker, there were times Jevonn thought that he was not destined for academic success. However, a couple living in Kammieskroon, Mr Helmut and Dr Maryna Kohrs, offered to assist him financially.



Three sets of twins received their MB,ChB qualifications. **Wanele and Wandile Ganya** come from a family with six children in Khayelitsha and had to survive on their mother's meagre income as a domestic worker. In their matric year, Wandile often had to care for his twin, who had TB at the time. **Manya and Gys Neethling's** family have close ties with SU. Their parents and older brother and sister – also twins, all studied at Tygerberg, while the **Kemp twins, Anika and Janika**, are first generation Maties.



[Click here for the video](#)

# News in pictures



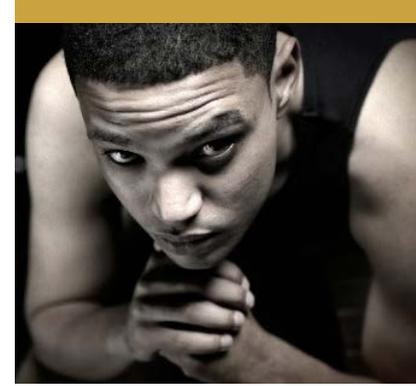
A wetland rehabilitation project at Rietenbosch Primary run by Prof Chris Reddy is on track to benefit more than 20 000 learners in and around Stellenbosch. Here are Prof Reddy, Mr Roy van Rooyen, principal of Rietenbosch, and Prof Nico Koopman, Acting Rector: Social Impact, Transformation & Personnel. (Photo: Stefan Els)



Learners from the Stellenbosch community recently had the opportunity to experience the media industry at a one-week training session hosted by campus radio station MFM 92.6. (Photo: Supplied)



Two MBChB 2013 graduates from the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences - Dr Jonas Bovijn and Dr Kirsten Rowe - have been selected as Rhodes Scholars for 2016. The Rhodes scholarship is awarded to outstanding students for postgraduate study at Oxford University. (Photo: Supplied)



Alumnus Marlo Minnaar recently performed in the acclaimed one-man show, Santa Gamka, at the Baxter Theatre. The piece is based on Eben Venter's novel of the same name, and Minnaar reworked it into a theatre play himself. He is also the producer. (Photo: Supplied)



The academic, poet and playwright, Prof Adam Small, the space scientist, Dr Japie van Zyl, the academic, jurist, campaigner for human rights and judge of the Constitutional Court, Judge Edwin Cameron, and the internationally renowned jurist, campaigner for women's rights and gender equality and also judge of the Constitutional Court, Judge Kate O'Regan have received honorary degrees from SU. (Photo: Stefan Els)



# Living her passion

*SU alumnus and winemaker Nomonde Kubheka is passionate about wine, educating young people, and making a positive impact. And that is exactly what she's doing as a facilitator for the Pinotage Youth Development Academy.*

## Tell us about yourself.

I was born and raised in Soweto, but my family relocated to Cape Town at the end of 1995. I completed matric in 1996 and spent most of the following year loafing around at home. I hadn't decided what I wanted to study so I waited it out. At the time, my dad was working for a company that manufactured stainless steel tanks for the wine industry. He found out about the winemaking course offered at Stellenbosch University and he thought it was pretty cool. I was game and didn't want to waste another year, so I enrolled.

I studied BSc. Agriculture (Viticulture and Oenology) and I'm a trained winemaker. During my first year at varsity, I received a bursary from KWV. Our agreement was that I'd work for them after completing my studies. I worked there for 10 years making red wines with a fantastic team of people.

Several years ago I decided to change the course of my career. I wanted to be involved in wine education/training because I love developing people and I also happen to love wine - a good match for me.

## How do you remember your time as a student?

I'll always remember SU as the place that opened up my eyes to the world around me, expanded my world view. I met people from various parts of the country and some from other countries. This is where I also created life-long friendships, partied a little, made my transition from teen to adulthood and studied hard! SU is where I actually learned the Afrikaans language and culture in the proper sense – having it as a subject in high school was insufficient. I have fond memories of my student days.



## What or who inspires you?

There's no one person in particular that inspires me. I'm inspired by people who have grit, tenacity and persevere through their hardships; come out tops and still stay grounded. I'm inspired by people who go out of their way to support and lift others because they can. There are many such people in our country and they serve to remind me that I can do better, that humanity is connected. We're just pieces of a bigger whole and we can make a positive impact in the world we live in.

## Tell us about your work with young people.

I work as a freelance facilitator for the Pinotage Youth Development Academy (PYDA) that is based in Stellenbosch. The academy's biggest goal is to provide bright and talented disadvantaged youth living in the Cape Winelands with employable skills so that they can access employment within the wine industry and related sectors.

The students do tailored short courses in winemaking throughout their 12 month programme. I co-facilitate with a few lecturers. It's great to see how students grow and flourish within a short space of time. I'm always filled with a sense of pride whenever I bump into the graduates at their various places of work and see that PYDA's goal has been achieved.

## What are your plans for the future?

I'm still working on fine tuning my plans. What I know is that they (will) focus on connecting and collaborating with various individuals and organisations within the wine industry in an effort to strengthen and further develop human capacity. I'm relationship oriented and I hope to partner with like-minded people who share similar goals.



## HOMECOMING ALUMNI WEEKEND 4 - 7 MARCH 2016

### WELCOME BACK TO MATIELAND

Celebrate campus life in a whole new way with a host of other Maties. Reconnect with your class and res mates. Party like it's the Eighties (or Seventies or Sixties, Fifties ... or Nineties!) at a line-up of restaurants and festive zones geared for your homecoming. Boland hospitality is guaranteed! Get cultured up at the Woordfees, sneak a kiss in the Laan, go on a campus tour, test your fitness levels in the street mile, cheer a stellar backline move at a Varsity Cup game, join the conversation on the future of Matieland, bump into your old prof, plug into all the latest ideas buzzing around campus, oh and then there are the music events: jazz, pop, organ recitals - the works! It's bound to be a classic weekend. It's the absolute highlight of 2016. So get your maroon on!

### EVENTS

#### Stellenbosch University Events

Matieland is not holding back! Our Boland cup is practically overflowing with all the Homecoming events on offer.

[SEE EVENTS](#)

#### Woordfees Events

There are over 120 Woordfees events to choose from. You are spoilt for choice. We've got all the big names, new names and a good dollop of name dropping on the side!

[SEE EVENTS](#)

#### Residence Events

Each residence will facilitate its own engagement - in true res style. So dust off those old res pics to set the ball rolling. Many of your mates from yesteryear will be there. Maybe even that hetic HK!

[SEE EVENTS](#)

# Technology opens doors for collaboration and capacity-building

A capacity-building project linked to Stellenbosch University's (SU) Faculty of AgriSciences and funded by the European Union has paved the way for SU's Centre for Learning Technologies to extend its footprint to Uganda and Kenya through its Division for Telematic Services.

As part of the PASUFONS project, two telematic learning centres were launched at the Makerere University in Uganda and the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology in Kenya. This historic event was celebrated with a live interactive satellite broadcast from Stellenbosch to these centres in Kampala and Nairobi in February.

The PASUFONS project is a collaborative project funded by the European Union under the ACP-EU EDULINK II programme. It is coordinated by Prof John Muyonga at Makerere University, Prof Marena Manley at Stellenbosch University and Dr Arnold Onyango at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology. The South African Association of Food Science and Technology (SAAFoST) and the Regional Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) are associate partners.

The rationale for the PASUFONS project lies with the fact that economies of most countries in Africa are predominantly agro-based. In spite of this, food insecurity and malnutrition are prevalent on the continent. Through providing demanded food and nutrition research and graduates with relevant skills, universities can contribute to the alleviation of food and nutrition insecurity.



All eyes are on the live broadcast at the Centre for Learning Technologies on the Stellenbosch campus. (Photo: Anton Jordaan)

The project seeks to: strengthen university food and nutrition sciences training and research in Eastern and Southern Africa; enhance the contribution of university food and nutrition science departments in addressing the contemporary human resource and research needs of the food, nutrition and agriculture sectors; and promote collaboration among participating institutions to foster exchange of information and sharing of training and research resources.



Behind the scenes... (Photo: Anton Jordaan)

The use of the telematic platform will promote the exchange of knowledge and one of the envisaged activities would be for experts in the field to broadcast lectures to the three venues simultaneously. The challenge of making universities more responsive to the market skills and research needs is an important one. PASUFONS is one of many efforts aimed at addressing this vast challenge.

- *More information about the PASUFONS project* [www.pasufons.org](http://www.pasufons.org).

# 241 reasons to give

At Stellenbosch University, we believe in providing a world of opportunity for all people, regardless of their background and experiences. For many Maties, access to this world begins and ends with their ability to afford study fees, accommodation and the expenses of daily life.

We have 241 needy students with **no source of funding** for 2016. All of them qualify on academic grounds but cannot afford to study in 2016. Without support, we project that 30% of them will drop out before the end of this year, and another 20% will leave before they complete their degrees.

## The difference you can make:

- R100 = 5 meals in the Neelsie
- R1 000 = 9 nights of accommodation in a residence
- R10 000 = course fees for 3 months
- R100 000 = full bursary for a year to a deserving undergraduate student

[Click here](#)

for EFT and direct deposit details.

## Alumni Office

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