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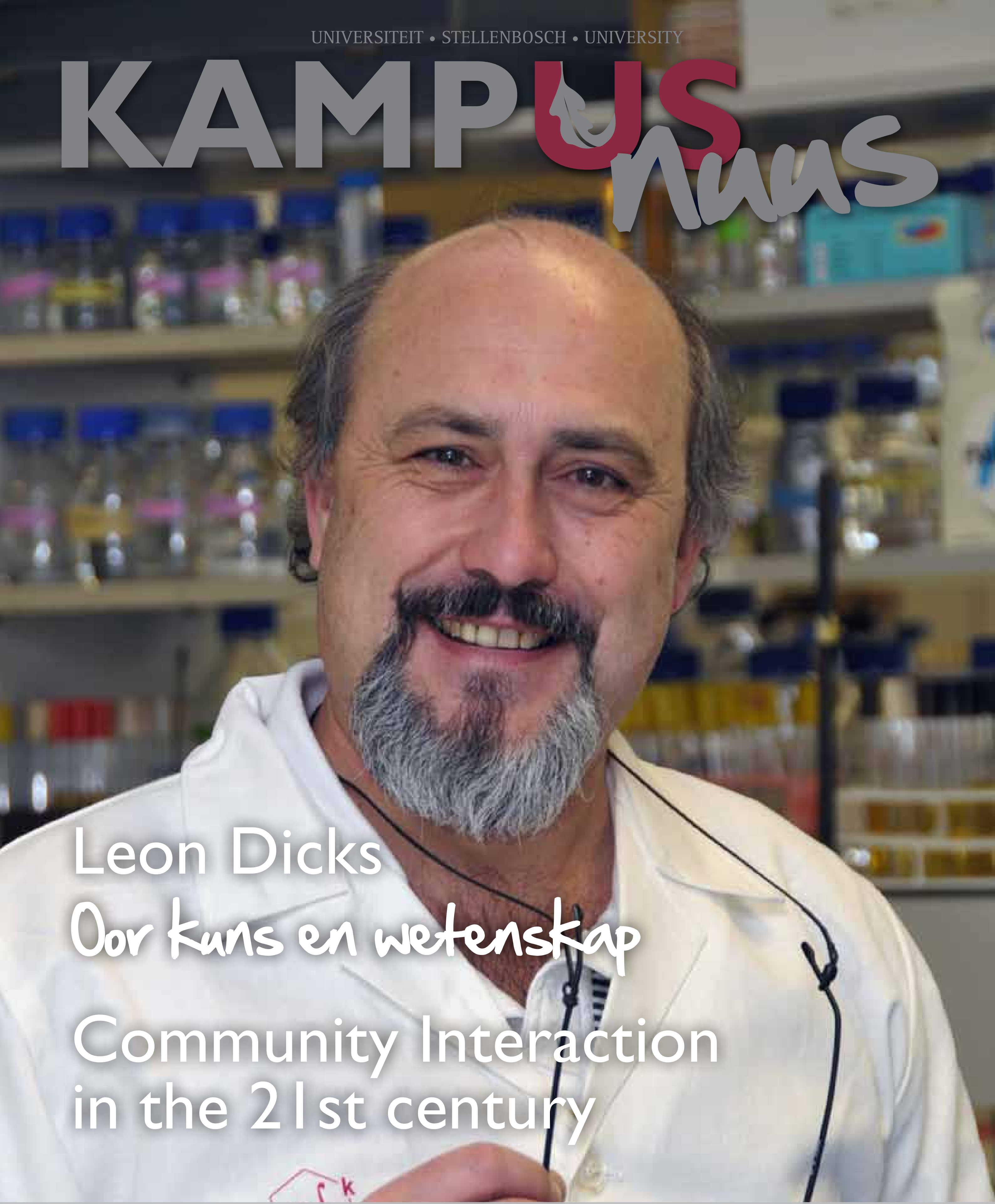
KAMPUS nuus



Leon Dicks
Oor kuns en wetenskap

Community Interaction in the 21st century

New research chair for SACEMA | Maggie Laubser se kuns uitgestal | Campus Health Service expands | Kollegas huldig Neville Alexander

JAAR 20#8 OKTOBER 2012 YEAR 20#8 OCTOBER 2012
US Personeelblad SU Staff Magazine

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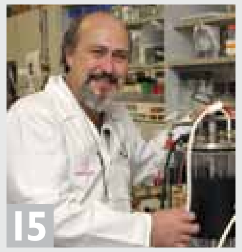

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UNIVERSITEIT STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY

VAN DIE Redakteur

Stellenbosch University has long been at the forefront of developments in science and technology. Our scientists regularly produce research that makes a difference in human lives. This month, *Kampusnuus* features some staff members who make sciences and technology in our everyday lives.

Prof Leon Dicks of the Department of Microbiology is on the cover this month. On page 15 he tells us more about a probiotic developed by him and his research team that has been patented and will now be sold as a product in pharmacies. We also get to know his artistic side.

Also, read more about the new SARChI Chair that was awarded to the South African Centre for Epidemiological Analysis and Modelling (SACEMA) at SU to further strengthen their research.

Dr Nonjabulo Gule is a post-doctoral fellow at the University who was part of the team that developed the now well-known "teabag waterfilter". On page 11, she tells us more about the nanosized filters she produced.

Tegnologie verander ook die manier waarop die Universiteit sy dagtaak verrig. Een van die voorbeelde van hoe tegnologie 'n impak op onderrig het, is die Afdeling Telematiese Dienste, wat onder meer lesings uitsaai na verskillende sentra regoor die land.

Ontmoet dr Antoinette van der Merwe, Direkteur van Telematiese Dienste, op bladsy 3. Sy vertel meer oor haar daagtaak.

'n Gerekende akademikus, buitengewone professor aan die US en 'n struggle-ikoon van Suid-Afrika, dr Neville Alexander, is onlangs oorlede. Sy kollegas in die Departement Afrikaans en Nederlands en by STIAS bring hulde aan hom op bladsy 10.

Lees ook meer oor die oorsigtentoonstelling van kunswerke deur nog 'n SA ikoon, Maggie Laubser. Dié tentoonstelling val saam met die 21ste verjaardag van die US se Sasol Kunsmuseum.

Lekker lees aan hierdie uitgawe van *Kampusnuus*. Skryf aan ons by kampusnuus@sun.ac.za, of lewer kommentaar op die US se Facebook-blad of Twitter.

Wayne

KAMPUS klets

Hartlik geluk aan die twee nuwe Viserektore, proff Arnold Schoonwinkel en Eugene Cloete, en sterkte met hulle groot taak in die belangrike portefeuljes van Leer & Onderrig en Navorsing & Innovasie onderskeidelik. Die Konvokasie het hoë verwagtinge van hulle ter uitbouing van die US as universiteit van wêreldgehalte, en bied graag sy samewerking (soos aan die res van die Rektor se Bestuurspan) aan ter bereiking van hierdie ideaal. – *Prof Christo Viljoen*

Baie geluk, Profs Rufus Gouws en Keith Dietrich. **(Sien bladsy 4.)** Ons stem saam dat julle 'n uiters belangrike bydrae tot die akademie maak. – *Ydalene Coetsee*

Congratulations Professor Servaas van der Berg! **(See page 5.)** You really deserve it. The research done by your team uncovers many socio-economic aspects existing in South and Southern Africa. Your skills in discovering and cultivating talent are also impressive! – *Carlos*

A very beautiful university in one of the most beautiful cities of the world :-) Greetings from Germany. – *Tobias Sánches*

So proud to be from Stellenbosch Tygerberg campus right now!!! (Their men's and ladies' sêr teams won the nationals) – *Sue-Anne Rhodes*

World Car Free Day places new emphasis on Matie Bike Project. – *Ralph Felix Pina*

We are so pleased to welcome @StellenboschUni! That makes 160 partners from 75 countries. – *WorldDigitalLibrary*

The biggest resource of Stell Univ is its people. – *Liam van Zyl*

You are welcome to write to Kampusnuus. Send a short letter to kampusnuus@sun.ac.za, fax 021 808 3800 or deliver at Admin B. A pseudonym may be used, provided that you supply your name and email/physicial address (not for publication). Kampusnuus reserves the right to shorten and edit letters. Comment on our SU Facebook page at www.facebook.com/stellenboschuniversity, or follow us on Twitter (stellenboschuni).

'n Kop vir tegnologie

Dit is werklik lekker om by 'n instelling te werk waar daar voortdurend vernuwing is en kritiese debat verwelkom word, sê dr Antoinette van der Merwe, Senior Direkteur van die Afdeling Telematiese Dienste. Deur ALEC BASSON

As hoof van Telematiese Dienste ... is ek verantwoordelik vir die strategiese bestuur van die afdeling in lyn met die visie en fokusareas van die Universiteit. Dit behels die bestuur van ons unieke tegnologieplatform (satelliet-, web-, mobiele- en videokonferensietegnologie) en 'n verskeidenheid van dienste (onder meer grafiese dienste, videoredigering, mobiele kamera-eenheid, werkswinkels en videokonferensies) wat hieraan gekoppel is. Via die tegnologieplatform kry die "learn-and-earn" studente, oftewel studente wat nie hul loopbaan kan onderbreek om hulle op Stellenbosch te kom vestig nie, toegang tot die US se nagraadse programme, kortkursusse en werkswinkels. Die fokus van die afdeling is die ondersteuning van nagraadse programme in nisareas, maar ons maak ook spaarkapasiteit op die platform beskikbaar aan regeringsinstansies en nie-winsgewende organisasie om so 'n rol in gemeenskappe te speel.

Ek geniet alle aspekte van my werk ... veral die saamwerk as 'n span binne Telematiese Dienste, die interaksie met akademici, die skakeling met ander steundiensomgewings en eksterne kliënte, asook vennootskappe met organisasies om "hoop" te bring binne gemeenskappe. Dis baie bevredigend om te sien hoe die programme wat op die telematiese platform aangebied word 'n verskil maak in die lewens van nagraadse studente, hoërskoolleerders, munisipale werkers en gestremde persone.

Wat my elke keer opval ... is die "aha"-uitdrukking op mense se gesigte as hulle die ateljee besoek of vir die eerste keer 'n program op die platform aanbied. Dit gaan nie vir my oor tegnologiese foefies nie, maar eerder oor hoe tegnologie effektief gebruik kan word in hoëronderwys om beide die reikwydte en rykheid van leergeleenthede te bevorder.

Ek hou daarvan om by die Universiteit te werk ... omdat dit 'n dinamiese omgewing is met 'n sterk klem op groei en ontwikkeling, veral wat betref die rol van tegnologie om die Universiteit se voetspoor uit te brei en leer en onderrig by 'n 21ste-eeuse universiteit te bevorder. Die US is ook 'n plek waar kritiese debat en 'n navorsingsgebaseerde benadering tot 'n mens se werk verwelkom word.

In my vrye tyd ... is ek voltydse ma vir my sewejarige seun, Alex. Ek probeer ook so tussen alles deur om in die berg fiets te ry en gimnasium toe te gaan. Verder lees ek, eksperimenteer in die kombuis en spandeer tyd saam met my vriende.

Foto's: JUSTIN ALBERTS

SU hosts HOPE Spring Ball

A successful spring ball in aid of Stellenbosch University and its HOPE Project took place in Johannesburg on 1 September. The gala event at the Wanderers Club in Illovo was attended by 220 guests.

Twelve companies and five individuals sponsored 23 tables, and 19 wine estates and a jeweller donated items that were used for fundraising. Some of the wine was auctioned in aid of the Rector's Awards for Succeeding against the Odds, which annually acknowledge students who excel academically despite difficult circumstances.

Prof Russel Botman, SU rector, thanked the guests for their support: "We are proud that the University is contributing to the development of our country and continent."

He said the fact that donors contribute to the HOPE Project showed that they were proponents of development, and support the positioning of SU as society's knowledge partner.

As a token of appreciation, female guests each received a pashmina embroidered with the HOPE Project logo. The men were given striped bowties reminiscent of the striped blazer that Maties wore at intervarsity.

SU intends constructing a new teaching and learning centre – with an underground parking garage – on the current car park behind the Neelsie Student Centre. Botman requested prospective donors to help the University to take the lead in providing "learning, living and working spaces that are in line with the requirements of the present and the future".

From left are Dr Tito Mboweni, Beryl Botman, Prof Russel Botman, Fumani Mthembi and Rupert Mthembi at the SU Spring Ball.
Photo: STEVE WAGNER

US profs ontvang A-evaluerings

Twee professors van die US is amptelik as A-geëvalueerde navorsers erken deur die Nasionale Navorsingstigting (NNS).

Prof Michael Samways, Voorsitter van die Departement Bewaringsekologie en Entomologie, en prof Simon Schaaf van die Departement Pediatrie en Kindergesondheid was onder die 22 Suid-Afrikaanse navorsers wat A-evaluerings ontvang het.

Naledi Pandor, Minister van Wetenskap en Tegnologie, Adjunkminister Derek Hanekom, asook die Hoof van die NNS, dr Albert van Jaarsveld, het uitnemendheid in navorsing beloon deur A- en P-evaluerings toe te ken.

Samways het sy navorsing toegespits op die bewaring van insekte op land sowel as in die water, terwyl Schaaf se navorsing oor middelweerstandige tuberkulose die kennis oor dié siekte verbreed het, veral begrip oor die siekte se impak op kinders en die bestuur daarvan.

Akademie vereer Gouws en Dietrich

Twee akademici van die Universiteit Stellenbosch wat deur die Akademie vir Wetenskap en Kuns vereer is, het in September hul pryse ontvang tydens 'n geleentheid in die HB Thom-teater op die Stellenbosch-kampus.

Prof Rufus Gouws, voorsitter van die Departement Afrikaans en Nederlands, het die CJ Langenhovenprys vir Taalwetenskap ontvang vir die uitstekende werk wat hy op die gebied van leksikografie doen.

Luidens 'n verklaring van die Akademie het Gouws die Afrikaanse, Suid-Afrikaanse en Afrika-leksikografie sy wetenskaplike onderbou gegee. Internasionaal staan hy bekend as dié meta-leksikograaf uit Afrika, terwyl hy plaaslik ook as praktiese leksikograaf bekendheid verwerf het.

Prof Keith Dietrich van die Departement Visuele Kunste is met die Stalsprys vir Kunstewetenskappe vereer. Volgens die Akademie word Dietrich nie net beskou as een van die mees innoverende en interessante visuele kunstenaars van sy generasie nie, maar ook as 'n akademiese navorser van hoë gehalte.

Prof Keith Dietrich ontvang sy toekenning van prof Wannie Carstens, voorsitter van die Akademie.

Prof Wannie Carstens oorhandig die toekenning aan Prof Rufus Gouws.
Foto's: ANTON JORDAAN

Ingenieurswese en Bosbou kry nuwe biblioteek

Die nuwe Ingenieurswese Kennis-sentrum is onlangs in gebruik geneem.

Dit beslaan vier verdiepings, waarvan die Ingenieurs- en Bosboubiblioteek op twee verdiepings gehuisves word. Op die derde verdieping is twee groot lesingsale en op die vierde is die MIH Media-laboratorium en die Sentrum vir Hernieubare en Volhoubare Energiestudies (CRSES).

Die biblioteek is ultra-modern met groot vensters wat baie lig deurlaat, en die ontblote pype, traprelings van metaal en betonmure weerspieël dat dit vir gebruik deur voornemende ingenieurs ontwerp is. Hier is ook ruim van hout gebruik gemaak om bosbou te weerspieël.

Die biblioteek spog met die grootste bosboupamfletversameling in Afrika en dalk selfs in die Suidelike Halfrond.

Sagte meubels is in treffende kleure wat wissel van swart en grys tot rooi en groen. Dit dra alles by om 'n ultra-moderne retro gevoel aan die ruimte te gee.

"Die talle ronde tafels en stoele maak groepwerk in die biblioteek moontlik," sê me Corinna Truter, hoof van die Ingenieurswese- en Bosboubiblioteek.

"Dis vir ingenieursstudente noodsaaklik om saam te werk om gesamentlike oplossings vir probleme te vind."

Voorts is hier meer as 30 rekenaarstasies, 'n moderne interaktiewe elektroniese klaskamer met nog 25 rekenaarstasies, twee seminaarkamers met platskerm-monitors en koppelpunte vir skootrekenaars.

Twee groot lesinglokale is ook op die vierde verdieping ingerig.

"Die nuwe, eietydse en funksieryke Ingenieurs- en Bosboubiblioteek sluit aan by 'n vloedgolf voorbeelde wêreldwyd wat daarop dui dat die biblioteek as plek toenemend belangrik geword het," sê me Ellen Tise, Senior Direkteur van die US se Biblioteek- en Inligtingsdiens.

Die Ingenieurswese Kennissentrum is teen 'n bedrag van ongeveer R38 miljoen opgerig.

Die nuwe Ingenieurswese- en Bosboubiblio-teek van binne.
Foto: JUSTIN ALBERTS

Medalje vir akademikus

Prof Peter Beets van die Departement Kurrikulumstudie in die Fakulteit Opvoedkunde het 'n goue medalje van die Vereniging van Suid-Afrikaanse Geograwe ontvang.

Hy het dié toekenning ontvang in erkenning van sy veelkantige en verdienstelike bydrae tot die veld van Geografie in die algemeen en meer bepaald Geografie-onderwys in Suidelike Afrika. Die toekenning sluit ere-lidmaatskap van die Vereniging in.

"Die bekendmaking van die Vereniging se voorneme het heeltemal uit die bloute gekom, maar ek is dankbaar dat pogings om die dissipline op verskillende vlakke te bevorder op hierdie manier erkenning kry en dat ek deel daarvan kan wees."

Beets sê sy doelwit is om skoolvak Geografie as 'n wetenskap van integrasie te help vestig.

Hy het aan die Universiteit van Wes-Kaapland gestudeer, waarna hy 'n meestersgraad in Geografie aan Unisa en 'n diploma in onderwysontwikkeling aan Leeds Metropolitaanse Universiteit in Engeland verwerf het. Hy het later sy PhD in Kurrikulumstudie aan die US voltooi.

Prof Peter Beets
Foto: JUSTIN ALBERTS

NRF renews Chair in Economics of Social Policy

The Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences at SU announced the renewal of its Research Chair in the Economics of Social Policy. The chair, which is held by Prof Servaas van der Berg and hosted by the Department of Economics, will receive funding from the National Research Foundation (NRF) for a further five years.

The renewal is a feather in the cap of a man whose work has a significant impact on South Africans' understanding of poverty and education in the country. Over the past five years, Van der Berg has led a strong team of researchers and postgraduate students in producing research that is undeniably relevant to the social and economic challenges faced by the country.

The research chair has contributed towards funding and opportunities for eleven Honours students, fifteen Masters students, ten PhD students and one post-doctoral fellow.

The chair is funded by the NRF under its South African Research Chair Initiative (SARChI). SARChI is a flagship initiative by government that seeks to bolster research and innovation, and enhance the capacity of high-quality postgraduate students.

Unique theology house inaugurated

An historical building in Stellenbosch, Weidenhof House, refurbished especially for theology students from other African countries, was officially inaugurated in September.

Weidenhof House, which consists of semi-detached houses in Weidenhof Street, has been renovated to accommodate 24, mainly postgraduate, theology students from Africa.

The houses were bought for this purpose in 1994 by the Hartgerink Trust and the Commission for Witness of the Dutch Reformed Church (DRC) and given to Stellenbosch University in 2008.

During the 2009/2010 annual general meeting of the Network for African Congregational Theology (NetACT), the DRC handed over the symbolic keys of the house to the SU rector, Prof Russel Botman. Restoration and extensions of the Weidenhof House site started in 2011.

In addition to various "green" aspects, the renovated house boasts rooms for married couples, as well as facilities for people with physical disabilities. Each room also has internet access.

"For many Stellenbosch alumni who lived there, Weidenhof House is a symbol of hospitality, dignity and hard work that ultimately lead to success. Here students get the feeling of a home away from home," says Prof Jurgens Hendricks of SU's Faculty of Theology and guardian of the house.

According to Prof Nico Koopman, Dean of the Faculty of Theology, Weidenhof House contributes to the wellbeing of theology students from other African countries, like Namibia, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Mozambique and Nigeria. "Weidenhof House is a site where students assist one another and where they experience companionship and care," he says.

The Faculty of Theology "owns" the house and is responsible for its management.

On Thursday, 20 September Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe delivered the inaugural Oscar and Rose Mpetha Memorial Lecture in Stellenbosch at the Kruiskerk. Before the event Motlanthe met with the University management and some senior staff members. In his lecture Motlanthe said South Africa is not where it should be, and it is also not at a level that the struggle activists Oscar and Rose Mpetha fought for.

Photo: JUSTIN ALBERTS

Prof Jannie Hofmeyr word genoot in Duitsland

"Dit is vir my die kersie op die koek."

Só beskryf prof Jannie Hofmeyr van die US se Departement Biochemie die gesogte genootskap van die Berlynse Instituut vir Gevorderde Navorsing (*Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin*, oftewel Wiko) wat onlangs aan hom toegeken is. Hy sal vanaf 15 September 2014 tot 15 Julie 2015 'n genoot aan dié instituut wees en beoog om 'n boek te skryf oor sy navorsing van die afgelope paar jaar wat handel oor die merkwaardige vermoë van lewende organismes om hulself te kan reproduseer.

"Deur my nou betrokkenheid by STIAS sien ek daagliks die ongekende waarde van so 'n genootskap aan 'n vooraanstaande instituut vir gevorderde navorsing. Die luukse om ongehinderd vir tien maande op een projek te kan fokus in 'n omgewing waar mens daagliks skouers skuur met wêreldklas-navorsers uit verskillende dissiplines, is iets waarvan ek nog altyd gedroom het," sê Hofmeyr, Direkteur van die US se Sentrum vir Studies in Kompleksiteit.

Wiko is een van die mees gesiene navorsingsinstitute in die wêreld en bied sedert 1981 aan internasionaal erkende navorsers die geleentheid om vir 'n jaar aan 'n gekose navorsingsprojek te werk. Dit bevorder ook samewerking tussen navorsers uit verskillende lande en dissiplines. Die Instituut ken genootskappe toe aan top-navorsers met die beste voorleggings in hul onderskeie velde. Navorsers word genooi om voorleggings te doen.

Prof Jannie Hofmeyr.

Dierkundiges ontdek nuwe vlermuisspesie

Navorsers van die Universiteit Stellenbosch was betrokke by 'n studie waarin vier nuwe spesies van die hoefystervlermuis in Oos- en Suider-Afrika ontdek is nadat wetenskaplikes leidrade soos DNS-data en die hoogste frekwensie sonarklanke van elk van hierdie vlieënde soogdiere sorgvuldig nagevors het.

Die navorsing is pas in die oopbron-tydskrif *PLOS ONE* gepubliseer.

Drs Samantha Stoffberg en Woody Cotterill van die US was deel van die span wat vlermuiskundiges en evolusionêre genetici van Suid-Afrika, Engeland en Malawi ingesluit het.

Twee van die spesies heet na toegewyde Suider-Afrikaanse bewaringsgesindes: Lientjie Cohen, 'n wetenskaplike van Mpumalanga se toerisme-en-parke-agentskap, en wyle dr Reay Smithers, die skrywer van Suider-Afrika se omvattendste soogdier-antologie. 'n Derde spesie is genoem na sy tuiste rondom Berg Mabu, die grootste reënwoud in Suider-Afrika wat deur ernstige bedreiging in die gesig gestaar word. Die vierde spesie kom in Mosambiek voor.

Pirates of Stellenbosch University

On Friday, 7 September pirates sailed into Stellenbosch University. Not the kind of pirates that demand ransoms, but rather the kind that want to do their bit for the community by supporting Casual Day.

Casual Day 2012's theme was "Come on board" and besides pirates, there were quite a number of captains, sailors and even a mermaid or two "on board" as well.

A total of 744 stickers were sold at SU.

At a ceremony in the Neelsie Student Centre, a group from Human Resources won the competition for the best-dressed. The most stickers were sold by the JS Gericke Library.

Staff members of the Vehicle Pool showing off their Casual Day costumes.

The Division for Student Fees donned up in sailor outfits.

The pirates of Human Resources in their outfits for Casual Day.

Photos: ANTON JORDAAN

BLY JY IN ONDERPAPEGAAIBERG OF KOM JY MET DIE TREIN TOT OP STELLENBOSCH-STASIE?

Klim op die nuwe Matie Bus en kom maklik op die kampus en terug!

Dit kos net R5 per rit.

Laai geld op jou personeelkaart by die kassiere in Admin A. Betaal op die bussie met dié kaart.

Meer info op www.sun.ac.za/volhoubaarheid

Klim op en ry saam!

MATIE BUS

Volhoubaarheid Sustainability

Universiteit Stellenbosch University

Community interaction in the 21st century

How should Stellenbosch University, as an engaged university, position itself in the 21st century? This probing question was addressed at the recently-held Fourth Stellenbosch University Community Interaction Symposium. Dr JEROME SLAMAT and JOANNE WILLIAMS reflect on the outcomes of the symposium.

Themed "Conceptualising Community Interaction for a 21st-century university", SU's fourth Community Interaction Symposium's aim was to reflect on the notion "21st-century university", to provide theoretical frameworks to think about Community Interaction in a 21st-century university, and to explore emerging community interaction practices.

The very notion of a 21st-century university was challenged by the keynote speaker, Dr Lis Lange, Director of Institutional Research and Academic Planning at the University of the Free State. She argues that South African universities have not entered the 20th century yet and are highly differentiated with some being highly resourced while others are lacking in resources.

She says that instead of being defined from the outside by ratings for instance, universities should define themselves from within. "Universities are not just factories of teaching. If universities are not critical, they are not doing the best job they can."

Lange's sentiments were echoed by Prof Catherine Odora Hoppers, who holds the SARChI Chair in Development Education at Unisa. Hoppers says universities need to dialogue with themselves before engaging with the community. She echoes Lange's concern that the university is turning into a factory that is preparing students for jobs.

These views were strengthened by Prof Ronelle Carolissen of SU's Faculty of Education who problematized the concept "community" in Community Engagement. "Community interaction is an academic activity and forms the core of teaching and learning. When we place teaching and learning and research and community interaction in silos, we are doomed for failure".

These presentations largely underscored the key role the broader community plays and will continue to play at the University going forward. The need was felt to make key resolutions in taking the work of community interaction at SU forward. Four key resolutions were decided upon:

- **To optimise access to the university for communities on different levels** (i.e. geographic, communities of interest, communities of practice, schools, industry and government). This resolution was informed by Lange's caution that our relationship as public universities with the public is not good enough. Also, very importantly, by the feedback from community partners about the need to improve access and relationships.
- **To create a central space for consultation and deliberation between community groups and the university** that can serve as a first point of contact, feedback mechanism and space to build trust. This resolution was informed by the model Matie Community Services uses in its work and by the discussions about emerging CI practices by Dr Antoinette Smith-Tolken, Deputy Director: Community Interaction at SU, who presented the Shopfront model of community interaction at the Sydney University of Technology. Barbara Schmidt also shared the experience of the Knowledge Co-Op at UCT over the past two years.
- **To provide cognitive justice by acknowledging the importance of different knowledge sources and reciprocal teaching and learning.** Hoppers cautioned that the university is in a unique thought leadership role, but we must never try to assume that role alone. There is indigenous knowledge and wisdom among us, in our communities.
- **To promote critical thinking, challenge the status quo and to imbue our CI with activism for social justice.** Lange challenged the gathering by saying universities need to contribute to society and the country. She observed that universities are mute about the current events taking place in our country, yet vocal about issues inside the university. We cannot practice engagement or responsiveness without active critique.

Dr Antoinette Smith-Tolken, Prof Catherine Odora Hoppers, Dr Jerome Slamat, Dr Lis Lange, Prof Ronelle Carolissen and Barbara Schmidt at the Community Interaction Symposium.

Photo: ANTON JORDAAN

Strengthening research

With its new SARChI Research Chair, Stellenbosch University's SA Centre for Epidemiological Analysis and Modelling increases its research capacity. ENGELA DUVENAGE reports on the Centre's work.

The work of the South African Centre for Epidemiological Analysis and Modelling (SACEMA) at Stellenbosch University – to analyse the course of epidemics and possible interventions – is being further strengthened with the awarding of a research chair as part of the South African Research Chair Initiative (SARChI).

Prof Jacky Snoep of the Department of Biochemistry will hold the SARChI Research Chair in Mechanistic Modelling of Health and Epidemiology. It is the 12th SARChI chair to be awarded to SU in the past four years as part of the endeavours of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the National Research Foundation (NRF) to strengthen research capacity in South Africa.

"If we can understand the dynamical rules and impact on society of various diseases, we will be able to better plan and implement interventions at our disposal."

SACEMA is a national research centre established under the Centre of Excellence programme of the NRF and DST. Its researchers develop quantitative mathematical models that can help characterise the state and impact of prevalent South African health epidemics such as HIV, tuberculosis and malaria.

"If we can understand the dynamical rules and impact on society of various diseases, we will be able to better plan and implement interventions at our disposal," says SACEMA Director Dr Alex Welte.

"We believe our work can help policy makers and health officers to pre-emptively plan, and better evaluate their programmes. Thanks to the SARChI chair, SU will have more resources, and synergistic projects. This will translate into more opportunities to train highly skilled researchers who know how to analyse experimental data and use mathematical modelling approaches, to address important questions about the treatment of our most pressing infectious diseases."

The new SARChI chair will typically train postgraduate students from the fields of biomathematics, epidemiology, computer science or biochemistry at Honours, MSc and PhD level, and train them in the mathematical modelling of biological systems. The chair will also actively work with postdoctoral fellows and other senior scientists.

Snoep trained in the fields of microbiology and biochemistry, and joined SU from the Free University in the Netherlands in 2000. He has been doing malaria-related work since 2008. In his new position as research chair, Snoep will be adding his expertise in mechanistic modelling approaches to the already excellent work done by SACEMA researchers in predictive modelling.

His chair will initially focus on the understanding of whole body glucose metabolism in healthy and diseased states. The studies will also include the effects of diabetes type II and malaria infections.

"Most of the current mathematical models being used are largely phenomenological, which does not yet allow us to predict the effect of a pharmaceutical drug during course of treatment in an infected body," Snoep explains. "We will extend these modelling approaches from the drug target up to the whole body level, by using a hierarchical modelling framework."

His research group has used experimental and computational modelling methods to create a detailed mathematical model for glucose metabolism in the malaria parasite *Plasmodium falciparum*. This has led to the production of a model for the plasmodium infected red blood cell. Their work will now be extended to the level of the whole body glucose metabolism system.

"Work being done as part of the chair will provide a mechanistic modelling approach, which will help us to better understand the impact of the interventions steps and pharmaceutical treatment that are prescribed to patients," he believes.

As part of its service component output, a web-enhanced, mathematical model database of biological systems will also be managed and made available freely to researchers.

Prof Jacky Snoep *Photo: ENGELA DUVENAGE*

’n Buitengewone man

Op 27 Augustus 2012 is prof Neville Alexander (75) – intellektueel, voorstander van veeltaligheid, vryheidsvegter en ’n buitengewone professor aan die Universiteit Stellenbosch – oorlede. Sy kollegas in die Departement Afrikaans en Nederlands en by die Stellenbosch Instituut vir Gevorderde Navorsing (STIAS) bring hulde aan hom.

Selde was die titel van buitengewone professor so gepas: buitengewone intellek, vakkennis, navorser, dosent, dissipline, hoflikheid, humorsin, maar bowenal buitengewone mens.

Neville Alexander het die aanstelling as buitengewone professor binne die Departement Afrikaans en Nederlands in Julie 2006 aanvaar eers nadat hy seker gemaak het hy sal nie net ’n vertoonstuk wees nie, maar dat ons werklik ’n behoefte aan die vakinhoud Taalbeplanning, Taalpolitiek en Sosiolinguistiek gehad het. Tipies van sy nederige aard wou hy eers weet of ons bewus is dat hy reeds byna 70 is en of ons werklik dink hy sal nog waarde kan toevoeg.

Sy teoretiese kennis het ook prakties neerslag gevind, want hy was ook ’n praktiese taalbeplanner: in Suid-Afrika was hy instrumenteel in die vaslê van die post-1994 Taalbeleid. Ook in die opstel van die nuwe Suid-Afrikaanse Taalbeleid het hy ’n aansienlike bydrae gelewer. Met hom as medepromotor het Gerda Odendaal haar PhD oor die herstandaardisering van Afrikaans, ’n navorsingsterrein waaroor hy besonder passievol was, voltooi. Dit was sy laaste taak in die Departement.

Alexander het sterk gevoel dat daar ’n plek vir Afrikaans is in ’n veeltalige demokratiese Suid-Afrika en daarom was sy betrokkenheid by die Departement ook ’n tasbare bewys van sy positiewe houding teenoor Afrikaans. Ons was besonder bevoorreg om hom as kollega te kon hê. Ons sal sy nalatenskap eer deur sy passie vir veeltaligheid deur middel van Afrikaans uit te leef.

– PROF ILSE FEINAUER
Departement Afrikaans en Nederlands

Dr Neville Alexander tydens ’n personeelfunksie van die Departement Afrikaans en Nederlands in 2009 saam prof Rufus Gouws en sy vrou, Ilse.

Met die dood van Neville Alexander verloor ons Departement ’n gewaardeerde en baie besondere kollega. Sy verstommende kundigheid en sy uitgebreide ervaring in dié vakgebied, binnelands sowel as buitelands, het hy met oorgawe met studente en kollegas gedeel. Sy betrokkenheid by die Departement was deurgaans ’n tweerigtingaktiwiteit waarin hy opreg in sy kollegas en studente se standpunte belang gestel het en veel gedoen het om akademiese gesprek te stimuleer.

Hy het moeite gedoen om nie net akademies betrokke te wees nie maar ook sosiaal en op interpersoonlike vlak. Daarom het hy geen moeite ontsien om deel te neem aan sosiale departementele geleenthede nie; om saam met hom aan ’n etenstafel te sit was ’n geleentheid vir prikkelende gesprekke en insiggewende vertellings. Buitelandse gasdosente aan die Departement het veel daarby gebaat om vanuit Alexander se besondere perspektief ’n blik op die taalsituasie en die taalpolitiek van Suid-Afrika te kry.

En voortdurend was ’n mens onder die indruk van sy opregte nederigheid en ’n niks-nonsens-benadering.

– PROF RUFUS GOUWS
Voorsitter: Departement Afrikaans en Nederlands

An intellectual par excellence, Neville Alexander had the wisdom and insight gained from the hard realities of life. He was a fiercely independent and original thinker who could articulate his views clearly and succinctly and who loved good debate. Also, he engaged with others with empathy and a deep humanity that often led to constructive outcomes. His integrity and personal sacrifice for a democratic South Africa made him an iconic figure. In many ways he was an ideal STIAS fellow.

His own STIAS project on the “optimal relationship between language policy and economic performance with special reference to the Western Cape Province of South Africa” focused on one of his enduring interests and was part of his personal mission to ensure that all languages in South Africa are developed to their full potential.

His vision for this society was not that of a “rainbow nation” where the bands of the rainbow remain separated. The metaphor he preferred was that of the Gariep, where a multitude of streams from diverse origins flow together to ultimately form a mighty river.

– PROF HENDRIK GEYER
Director of STIAS

Filtering water, saving lives

There is still a buzz in scientific circles about the “teabag waterfilter” developed by SU’s Water Institute two years ago. Behind the scenes, a team of researchers worked hard to make this a reality. One of them was Dr Nonjabulo Gule, who did her doctoral research on water purification filters made from nanosized fibres. By ALEC BASSON

Dr Nonjabulo Gule in the laboratory. Photo: JUSTIN ALBERTS

In June, Stellenbosch University produced the publication *New Voices in Science*, in which selected doctoral candidates wrote about their interesting research. Dr Nonjabulo Gule was one of these researchers whose work could change the way many people live.

Gule (28), who received her doctorate in Polymer Science in March this year, was part of the SU Water Institute’s team that developed the much-publicised “teabag waterfilter”. For her doctoral research, she produced nanosized fibres that have the potential to not only destroy bacteria that come into contact with the fibres, but also to prevent bugs from attaching themselves to the surface of these fibres.

Born in Swaziland, this young scientist completed her BSc degree at the University of Swaziland and her MSc in Chemistry at the University of Johannesburg before coming to Stellenbosch in 2009.

For Gule, water purification filters made from these nanosized fibres can bring hope to the billion people around the world who lack access to safe water. She says the use of these nanofibres (made from environmentally friendly polymers) for water purification filters is crucial because more than 3,6 million people – mostly children under the age of 15 years in the developing world, including South Africa – die each year from water-related diseases.

She first doped polymer solutions with AquaQure, a water treatment product, and then used electrospinning to produce the bacteria-killing and antibiofouling nanofibres. Electrospinning is a process by which very fine fibres is drawn from a charged liquid polymer solution using an electrical charge.

These nanofibres, Gule says, are suitable for water purification because they remain intact after being exposed to water for 48 hours, and have a high acid and temperature resistance. They can also limit the use of chemicals to clean water in conventional water purification techniques.

“Water filtered through these nanofibres is deemed safe for human consumption. These fibres help to improve water quality because of a high surface area for better absorption of various trace elements.

“Membrane water filtration is a cost-effective and environmentally acceptable method of purifying large volumes of water. Due to these attributes, it is a viable method to meet the water demands of the growing population,” explains Gule, who is currently a postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Chemistry and Polymer Science.

She points out that nanofibres have longer membrane life spans, are flexible and can be formed into various membrane units for larger commercial purposes.

“With further improvements, filters made from nanosized fibres can be used in point-of-use water systems because scattered dwellings of rural communities in the developing world makes it almost impossible to pipe water from centralised purification plants,” says Gule.

In these remote rural areas there is also a lack of skilled labour, as well as the electricity required to operate the infrastructure of centralized purification systems and to run the processes involved, Gule adds.

US kunsmuseum wys kuns-ikoon se werke

Op 3 Oktober vier die Eben Dönges-sentrum van die Universiteit Stellenbosch, waarin die bekende Sasol Kunsmuseum gevestig is, sy 21ste verjaardag met die opening van die oorsigtentoonstelling *Altyd Lig: Maggie Laubser (1886–1973)*.

Prof Muller Ballot is die gaskurator. Die titel van die uitstalling, *Altyd Lig*, was die naam van Laubser se huis in die Strand.

Volgens die Kunsmuseum se webblad is die Eben Dönges-sentrum, voorheen die Bloemhofskool vir Meisies, in 1907 gebou en is tot 1986 as skool gebruik. Die gebou is in 1979 as Nasionale Monument verklaar. Met groot finansiële hulp van die petrochemiese maatskappy Sasol kon die sentrum opgeknap en ingerig word as 'n kulture sentrum. Die Kunsmuseum het in 1991 sy deur geopen.

Laubser het al die skilderye in haar huis, sekere meubels en huishoudelike items asook die restant van haar boedel aan die US bemaak. Sy het die wens uitgespreek dat die kunswerke in een vertrek as die "Maggie Laubser-versameling" uitgestal moet word.

'n Jaar ná haar dood kon uitvoering aan haar wens gegee word toe die werke in die ou Lutherse Kerk in Dorpstraat, nou bekend as die US Kunsgalery, uitgestal is. Dit was die Universiteit se eerste Kunsmuseum. In 1991 het hierdie versameling na die nuut ingerigte Sasol Kunsmuseum in Ryneveldstraat verhuis.

Laubser is in Malmesbury gebore en was een van die eerste plaaslike kunstenaars wat Ekspressionisme in Suid-Afrika bekend gestel het. Ná kunsstudies in Suid-Afrika het sy na Europa gegaan vir verdere opleiding. Haar kunswerke is opgeneem in die permanente versamelings van talle kunsgalery en maatskappye in Suid-Afrika.

Altyd Lig bestaan uit 129 werke uit die Maggie Laubser-versameling en 'n tiental ander skenkings of erflatings. Dertien werke van haar tydgenote – soos Hugo Naudé, Ruth Prowse, Strat Caldecott en Irma Stern – uit ander versamelings van die Universiteit, asook werke in bruikleen van Sanlam, die Iziko- Nasionale Kunsmuseum in Kaapstad, die Pretoriase Kunsmuseum en die Antonij Rupert-versameling is ook te sien.

Die uitstalling kan tot 19 Januarie 2013 besigtig word. 'n Katalogus is by die Sasol Kunsmuseum te koop teen R100.

Skakel 021 808 3029/3690 vir meer inligting.

Die museum is oop Maandae van 10:00 tot 16:30, en Dinsdae tot Saterdae van 09:00 tot 16:30.

'n Selfportret van Maggie Laubser.

Die Tamatieplukkers

Dié maand lys Kampusnuus weer 'n paar opwindende dinge om te doen. Gaan eet 'n heerlike roosterkoek by De Stomme Jonge in Ryneveldstraat, of beleef Suid-Afrikaanse komposisies in 'n uitvoering deur die Vrystaatse pianis Benjamin Fourie. Lees ook 'n nuwe boek oor die millennium-ontwikkelingsdoelwitte waartoe die US-rektor 'n bydrae gelewer het.

Etenstyd

Suid-Afrikaners hou van 'n vleisie oor die vuur gooi. Maar daarmee saam is hulle net so lief vir lekker roosterkoek – nog warm en vars van die kole af.

Dit is sekerlik wat die eienaars van De Stomme Jonge, aan die onderpunt van Ryneveldstraat naby Dorpstraat, in gedagte gehad het toe hulle verlede jaar dié restaurant geopen het.

Dit is 'n klein plekkie, effens ingedruk agter 'n groot boom en reg langs die bekende 5 Ryneveld-restaurant. As jy nie fyn kyk nie, kan jy nogal De Stomme Jonge mis. Daar is 'n klein stoepie buite met 'n paar tafels vanwaar jy die bedrywighede in die straat kan dophou.

Binne is die restaurant intiem en warm, met karaktervolle foto's teen die mure en ou meubels wat al behoorlik gelééf het.

Die spyskaart bestaan hoofsaaklik uit roosterkoeke met 'n verskeidenheid van vulsels – van konfyt en kaas tot spek en eiers. Dit word met vars slaai voorgesit.

Vir laatoggend is die spek-en-eiers roosterkook 'n wenner. Al wat jy moet doen, is om 'n goeie eetlus saam met jou te neem, want De Stomme Jonge maak 'n bielie van roosterkoek. Dit word mooi voorgesit op 'n hout broodplankie.

So, as die lus jou pak vir 'n lekker warm roosterkoek met botter wat daarop smelt, vat die pad na De Stomme Jonge toe.

Read

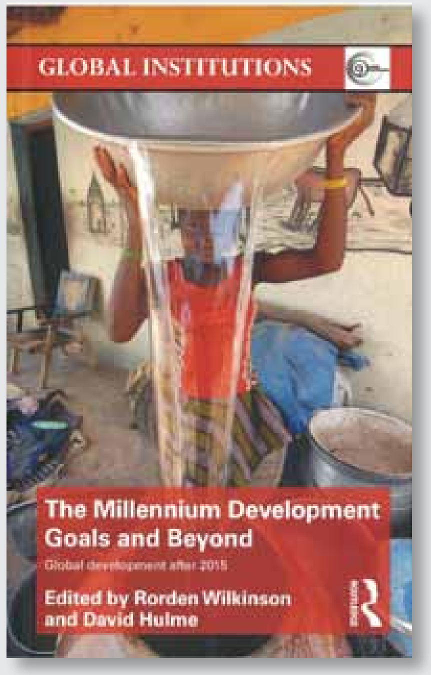
No less than one billion people across the globe go hungry every day.

This is despite the global action plan (under the leadership of the UN) known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) that is aimed at, amongst others, reducing poverty, halving maternal deaths, reducing the occurrence of HIV and providing universal primary education by 2015.

The book *The Millennium Development Goals and Beyond – Global Development after 2015* (edited by Rorden Wilkinson and David Hulme, and published by Routledge as part of their Global Institutions Series) draws on the expertise of academics and activists worldwide to take stock of the progress – or lack of progress – made so far.

One of the contributors is Prof Russel Botman, Rector of Stellenbosch University, who looks at the role of higher education in development. He argues that while primary and secondary education is important, tertiary education is also important. A girl child in Africa is part of the most vulnerable group. But had she been born in 2000 – the year that the MDGs were adopted – she could have benefited from the MDG drive towards universal primary education. By 2015 she could have gone through her secondary school years and might be contemplating her future. If her opportunities are limited, she might not go to university because of a lack of funding. All the investment in her prior education would have been wasted – because someone had decided that higher education was more of a private good than a public good.

Botman makes a strong case for the revitalisation of the African university and for re-linking universities to development.



Listen

Benjamin Fourie

Each year the Endler Concert Series in collaboration with KEMUS, a body housed within SU's Music Department that specializes in South African and contemporary music, presents two concerts.

In June, the KEMUS concert celebrated the life and music of Peter Klatzow. The next concert on 13 October features the talented South African pianist, Benjamin Fourie, who is well known for his dedicated performances of South African music.

Fourie has been giving piano recitals for more than two decades in South Africa, Namibia and several European countries. He has also released three CD recordings of contemporary piano music by South African composers to critical acclaim.

On 13 October in the Fismer Hall at 20:00, he will perform an interesting selection of works by Zaidel-Rudolph, Van Rensburg, Klatzow and De Klerk.

Fourie commented in an online interview last year that he once performed De Klerk's Variations on an English Lullaby after which a young girl spontaneously came up to him and gave him a big hug!

The American Biographical Institute has designated Fourie as "Outstanding Man of the 20th Century". He lives in Bethulie in the Free State and is a freelance concert artist.

Tickets cost R99 and R75 and are available at Computicket or on 0861 915 8000. The box office at the Endler Hall will open at 19:00 on the night. For further enquiries, please call the Endler Hall Concert Series on 021 808 2343 during office hours.

Caring the campus

Ever thought that Campus Health Service (CHS) only looks after students' aches and pains? Well, think again. CHS provides a comprehensive and integrated health service in four broad focus areas. We tell you about the new developments at CHS.

Under its previous name, Student Health Service, the division Campus Health Service (CHS) saw to the medical and health needs of only SU students. But in May 2009 CHS opened its door to University staff members as well. Now the division provides a comprehensive and integrated health service to all students and staff at the Stellenbosch and Tygerberg campuses.

Dr Pierre Viviers, Senior Director of CHS, says they are now able to provide an integrated and easy accessible health service where staff and students can get assistance with a range of health concerns.

Its services are provided in four focus areas: Family Medicine, Health Promotion and Preventative Medicine, Sports and Exercise Medicine, and Occupational Medicine. It is driven by experienced physicians and nurse practitioners with the applicable postgraduate training. CHS is also licenced to dispense medicine.

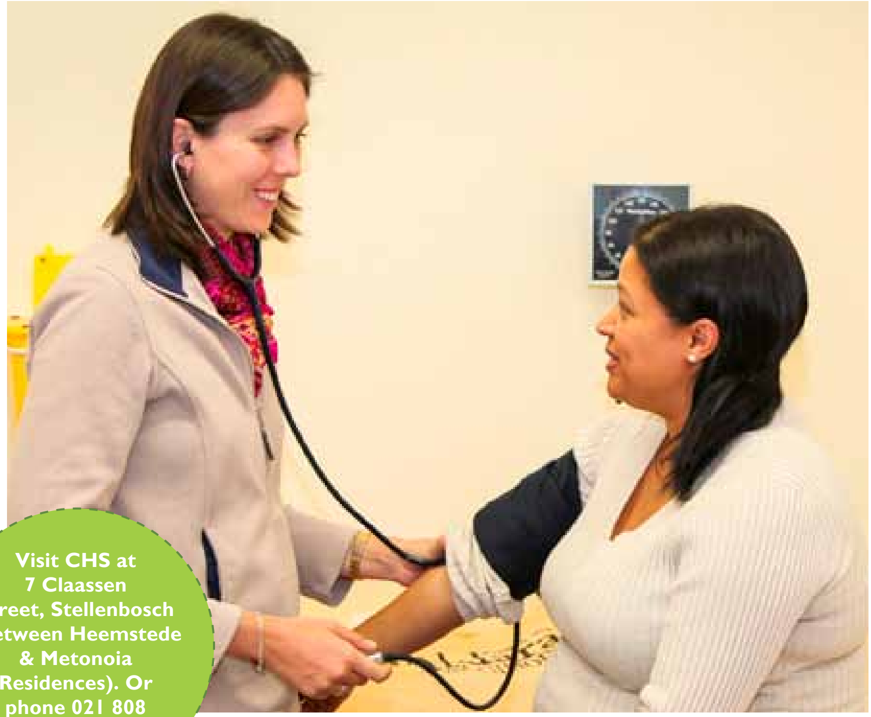


Photo: JUSTIN ALBERTS

Visit CHS at 7 Claassen Street, Stellenbosch (Between Heemstede & Metonoia Residences). Or phone 021 808 3496/3494

Family medicine

The main areas of this field include (but is not limited to) diagnosing and treating of everyday illnesses, like colds, flu and migraines, as well as chronic diseases. Other areas include sexual and gender health (including gynaecological examinations for women), mental health (including stress), and substance abuse.

Sport and Exercise Medicine

This area is dedicated to sport health and exercise in general. Injury clinics provide medical care for players in University teams and clubs (both on match days and at the clinic). The Concussion Clinic does detailed concussion assessments in line with Sports Concussion SA guidelines. Assessments of sports and exercise-related issues as well as medical screenings are also done for all fitness levels. This unit also assists in planning, coordinating services and supplying emergency medical support at sport and other events such as graduation ceremonies.

Occupational medicine

The main aim of this focus area is to ensure that SU complies with the SA Health and Safety Act. This area deals with a wide range of health-related issues within the workplace, with the main service areas being management of injury on duty, medical surveillance of employees, biological monitoring, hearing tests, as well as other health risk assessments in the workplace.

Heath promotion and preventative medicine

This focus area provides screening, interventions and information for wellness, lifestyle diseases (diabetes, hypertension) and exercise. Patients' progress is also monitored, and can be regularly screened for possible long-term complications. Adult immunisations, advice on nutrition, and information on disease outbreaks are also supplied. Staff and students who travel can make use of the travel medicine programme (including yellow fever immunisations).

Van plan tot produk

Prof Leon Dicks van die US se Departement Mikrobiologie vertel aan ENGELA DUVENAGE meer oor die probiotikum wat hy en sy navorsingspan ontwikkel het en binnekort op aptekers se rakke sal wees.

Eers was daar 'n plan. Toe 'n patent. Toe 'n produk. En nou is die probiotikum byna in die pakkie. Dít, in kort, is die storie van prof Leon Dicks van die Departement Mikrobiologie en die probiotikum entiro™ wat sy navorsingspan die afgelope sewe jaar danksy 'n navorsingsooreenkoms met die Suid-Afrikaanse farmaseutiese maatskappy Cipla Medpro ontwikkel het.

Dit sal teen Kersfees vanjaar landwyd in apteke en gesondheidswinkels beskikbaar wees.

Probiotika word deesdae al hoe meer gebruik om die vestiging van "goeie" of beskermende mikroörganismes in onder meer die lugweë, spysverteringstelsel en genitale weë te bevorder, patogene te onderdruk en die immuunstelsel te versterk.

By sy huis staan 'n botteltjie daarvan in poeiervorm in die kosrak. "En ons gesin neem gereeld 'n mespunt daarvan," verduidelik Dicks sy geloof in dié produk wat hy vir die eerste keer uitgetoets het op sy skoonma (met wie hy, terloops, 'n goeie verhouding het!).

Dicks – wat dalk die enigste persoon op kampus is met 'n valhelm, 'n perdesaal én 'n selfgeskilderde kopie van 'n Van Gogh-selfportret in sy kantoor – hardloop gemaklik deur die datums van entiro™ se ontwikkeling.

Sy span het in 2003 begin om stelselmatig deur meer as 5 000 melksuurbakterieë te sif op soek na enkele stamme met unieke beskermende eienskappe. So het hulle uiteindelik twee "vriendelike" spesies ontdek en beskryf wat onderskeidelik die boonste en onderste gedeeltes van die spysverteringskanaal as't ware as geheel dig uitvoer of -plavei. Dit keer dat patogene op die reseptorsetels in die ingewande aanheg en skade aanrig, en produseer daarby ook antimikrobiese peptiede wat verder help om kieme te vernietig.

Die produk se naam sinspeel op die Engelse woorde "intestines" en "entirely".

"Ons het tot dusver 25 navorsingsartikels oor die twee bakterieë in die produk in hoogaangeskrewe wetenskaplike joernale gepubliseer," kom dit tevrede van dié redaksielid van sewe vaktydskrifte wat onlangs ook lid van die Academy of Science for South Africa (ASSAf) geword het.

Vir Dicks is dit een van die hoogtepunte van sy loopbaan om so ten nouste by die uitrol van een van sy breinkinders betrokke te kon wees – vanaf die ontdekkingsfase en die ontwikkelingswerk tot by die patenteprokureurs en die bemarking daarvan.

"En om nie eens te praat van die sielkunde agter die ontwerp van die verpakking nie," kom die kunstenaarsy van dié wetenskaplike na vore, wat in sy vrye tyd werk aan 'n solokunsuitstalling wat vroeg Desember in Stellenbosch open.

Prof Leon Dicks in sy laboratorium in die JC Smuts-gebou.
Foto: ANTON JORDAAN

"Wetenskap is maar net kuns verpak in visie" voeg hy filosofies by.

Die afgelope maand was hy op 'n warrelwindagtige toer saam met die bemarkingspan van Cipla Medpro om entiro™ onder algemene praktisyns en gastroënteroloë bekend te stel en verkoopsverteenwoordigers regoor die land op te lei.

"Dit is iets waarvan die meeste wetenskaplikes net kan droom," glo hy.

Hy beklemtoon dat die suksesse wat hy reeds in sy loopbaan bereik het – insluitend vanjaar se Nasionale Wetenskap- en Tegnologieforum (oftewel NSTF)-BHP Billiton toekenning – grootliks te danke is aan die toewyding van sy nagraadse studente en medewerkers.

Volgende in sy visier is die afhandeling van eksperimente en toetse op 'n unieke nanovesel wondbedekking. Die unieke antimikrobiese peptiede in die materiaal, onder meer, help om sekondêre infeksies te voorkom.

"Ons hoop om die produk te ontwikkel sodat dit uiteindelik ook sal kan help met die neerlê van nuwe selle om brandbeskadigde velweefsel te help herstel," vertel hy oor die produk wat ook hopelik danksy Cipla Medpro op die rakke sal kom.

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