

**Boodskap aan nuwelingstudente en hul ouers.  
Prof Arnold Schoonwinkel, Viserektor: Leer en Onderrig, Universiteit Stellenbosch.  
Danie Craven-stadion, Coetzenburg, 18:00, 22 Januarie 2015.**

Dagsê, almal. *Good evening. Molweni.* Dis vir ons 'n voorreg om ons nuweling-studente en hul ouers by Maties te verwelkom. Ek gebruik graag hierdie geleentheid om 'n paar gedagtes met u te deel oor sukses in leer en onderrig.

*A reference I used for today is a TED Talk by Richard St John, "8 Secrets of Success" – please Google it. He spent 10 years doing over 500 face-to-face interviews with many of the world's most successful people, including Bill Gates, Richard Branson, the Google founders, Rupert Murdoch, and the list goes on.*

*He then analysed every word they said, sorted, organized and correlated every comment, and the created an organized database on success. From that he crystalized the critical factors for achievement in any field. I shall use the 8 principles from his talk and book, and customize them for your next life phase at Stellenbosch University.*

*The 1<sup>st</sup> success factor: PASSION. This means you are passionate about learning, and becoming really knowledgeable in the field you chose to study. Getting up for classes should not be a chore!*

*Passion means you do what you do for love, not for money. The interesting thing is that for many people who did something with passion, the money came anyway. Many passionate people say: "I will pay someone for the opportunity that I have to do what I do", which is by the way precisely your reality as students: you do all the hard work and pay the university for it.*

*Die 2<sup>de</sup> suksesfaktor: harde WERK. Rupert Murdoch, Australies-Amerikaanse Nuusmedia magnaat, en een van die mees wel-af mense in die wêreld sê: "It's all hard work – nothing comes easily. But I have a lot of FUN." Many people called "workaholics" are actually "work-a-frolics".*

Aan US is dit werklik moontlik om hard te werk en hard te "speel". Met laasgenoemde bedoel ek nie 'n gefuif in Stellenbosch se kroeë nie, maar om die meeste te maak van jou persoonlike en sosiale ontwikkeling altyd met respek teenoor jou medemens.

*The 3<sup>rd</sup> success factor: FOCUS. To be successful one must also be able to focus on one thing at a time. At this stage of your lives your primary goal and focus should be to obtain your degree in the minimum prescribed time.*

*On a finer scale it will require extreme focus on the next test or the next exam. However, even then the aim should not be to just pass it at 50%, but to learn as much as you can.*

*Modern technology and multimedia has brought us many benefits, which SU is applying for teaching and learning. But it has also accustomed us to multiple interruptions with minute, but interesting, snippets of information, and blending the social and work life on single technology platforms.*

*At SU we found that one of the biggest challenges for students is unlearn the urge for an immediate response to every WhatsApp, Tweet or Facebook notification, so that they can sit down and focus on an academics task at hand.*

*Die 4<sup>de</sup> suksesfaktor: OEFEN. Daar word gesê om werklik goed te wees in enigiets moet mens minstens 10 000 uur daaraan spandeer het. 'n Tipiese graadprogram vereis 'n minimum van 1 250 ure se werk per jaar vir die gemiddelde student om te slaag. Om sukses te waarborg, moet mens*

egter baie meer as die minimum doen, en oefen, oefen, oefen tot jy werklik goed is. Na my mening moet 'n student minstens 60 ure per week werk en nagraads kwalifiseer om as meester die werkplek te betree.

*The 5<sup>th</sup> success factor: INNOVATE. Bill Gates said: "I had an idea" – and he founded the first and eventually massive personal computer software company. But to innovate one first has to listen, observe, be curious, ask questions, make connections and have a problem solving attitude.*

Die 6<sup>de</sup> suksesfaktor: DRYFKRAG (PUSH). Sukses vereis dryfkrag: om jouself gedurig uit te daag en voluit te gaan vir selfontwikkeling: intellektueel, liggaamlik en geestelik. 'n Student moet leer om hulself te druk dwarsdeur skugterheid (*shyness*) en vertwyfeling (*self-doubt*).

Daar is baie hulpbronne aan US beskikbaar om hiermee te help, bv. die Sentrum vir Studente Voorligting en Ontwikkeling, asook beamptes in Fakulteite. *And for when students tire of pushing themselves, the Good Lord invented mothers! But seriously now...*

Hier is nog 'n stukkie goeie nuus – ons “BeWell”-mentorprojek. Die Universiteit Stellenbosch bied waarskynlik een van die wêreld se omvangrykste en innoverendste mentorondersteuning aan eerstejaarstudente om hulle te help om akademies suksesvol te wees, gebalanseerd te groei in elke dimensie van hul menswees, en om sodoende graduandi-eienskappe te ontwikkel wat hulle eendag gesog sal maak in die werkplek. Ons benadering berus op die wetenskaplike bevinding dat iemand wat gelukkig is ook akademies presteer.

Die projek staan heel gepas as die “BeWell”-mentorwelweesprojek bekend. In 2014 het 80% van al ons eerstejaars vrywillig in meer as 500 mentorgroepe deelgeneem aan meer as 5 000 mentorsessies. Elke mentor en “mentee” het ook sy eie persoonlike welweeswebwerf waar hy/sy toegang het tot 'n wye verskeidenheid selfhelp-ontwikkelingshulpbronne wat daarop gemik is om aan bogenoemde behoeftes te voldoen.

Die *BeWell*-projek se e-ondersteunings- en -tredhoukomponent is enig in sy soort, en help nie net om ons mentors en *mentees* te bemagtig nie, maar stel ons ook in staat om bewyse in te samel oor die impak van die projek. Alle 2015-eerstejaarstudente word gevolglik aangemoedig om by die *BeWell*-mentorprojek in te skakel.

*The 7<sup>th</sup> success factor: PERSIST (“VASBYT”). Success is not a one-way street. You have to persist through failure.*

*Stellenbosch University has a reputation of setting very high standards, and students come to us because they seek quality. These facts are part and parcel of excellence. We have the highest success rate of South African universities (85% of students who enrol for modules pass them). But that does not mean that you may not sometimes fail a module, and then we do not want to compromise our standards by negotiating with a student (or a parent) to condone a 49% into a 50% for a pass mark.*

*Other than academic standards, students sometimes face other challenges to overcome: criticism, unreasonable people, or rejection. Successful people are those who get up when they trip up, and don't give up.*

*However, as far as rejection is concerned, I want to reaffirm to all of you that SU no longer tolerates any form of Initiation that makes anyone feel unwelcome in our midst. Dit is die afgelope paar jare duidelik by senior studente ingeprent dat enige optrede, houding, sg. "tradisie", reël of praktyk wat*

'n nuwelingstudent op kampus minderwaardig stel en wat nie gasvry, vriendelik en menswaardig is nie, is totaal onaanvaarbaar vir die Universiteit.

Baie belangrik: as enigiets u ontuis laat voel, moet u NIE maar vasbyt en deurdruk nie. Rapporteer insidente dadelik aan jou mentor en US-personeel, sodat ons afdelings vir Studentesake en Studentedissipline onverwyld oortreders kan vasvat.

Die 8<sup>ste</sup> suksesfaktor: DIENS. *Let me conclude my talk with the 8<sup>th</sup> of the success secrets, revisiting the long-term reason why you are at varsity. Om eendag goed betaal te word vir wat jy as 'n werk doen, moet mens vir iemand anders iets van waarde kan bied (you must provide value in order to get paid). It should therefore not come to you as a surprise that two SU core values are: "shared accountability" and "leadership in service of others" (diens). Tydens jou US studies het jy 'n wonderlike geleentheid om te leer hoe om waarde te bied in die hedendaagse kenniseconomie.*

*If at any point of your studies you need to refresh yourselves on the 8 Secrets for Success at Maties, a video of this presentation will be available on MatiesTV on YouTube, and on SUNLearn, SU's e-learning platform.*

*So, welcome aboard FLIGHT SU2015, with destination "Graduation"! Enjoy your journey, with the pleasure of discovery, being equipped for a rewarding future, and building life-long friendships and lots of fond memories.*