

*[Finale konsep: onderhewig aan wysiging tydens lewering; onder embargo tot dan]*

**Universiteit Stellenbosch,  
Eerste gradeplegtigheid, Maart 2018**

**2018/03/19, 17:00, Coetzenburg Sentrum/Centre**

**Fakulteit Ekonomiese en  
Bestuurswetenskappe (Groep B)  
Verwelkoming deur die voorsittende  
beampte, prof Arnold Schoonwinkel,  
Viserektor, Leer en Onderrig**

*[Final draft; Embargoed until delivery; Subject to change during delivery]*

**Stellenbosch University,  
First graduation ceremony, March 2018**

**Faculty of Economic and Management  
Sciences (Group B)**

**Welcoming by the presiding officer, Prof  
Arnold Schoonwinkel, Vice-Rector for  
Learning and Teaching**

Ladies and gentlemen, what a pleasure it is to preside over this graduation ceremony taking place in our Centenary year, which makes it a truly historic occasion.

Standing side by side with the town's sturdy old oak trees for the past hundred years, Stellenbosch University has grown into one of Africa's leading higher-education institutions.

*Met ons Eeufees herdenk ons groot prestasies en baanbrekeruitvindings die afgelope honderd jaar. Ons gee erkenning aan almal wat die US help vorm het. Terselfdertyd het die Universiteit "sy bydrae tot die ongeregtighede van die verlede" erken en hom tot regstelling en ontwikkeling verbind.*

Against the background of valuable lessons from our complex history, our Centenary signifies a new beginning for Stellenbosch University. We strive to be a relevant institution playing a key role in the development of our nation, and our continent. And we are committed to contribute to a society of dignity, healing, justice, freedom and equality for all.

*[Sien ook rektor se boodskap in Gradeprogram / Also see Rector's message in Graduation Programme: Jy is deel van 'n uitgelese groep, want ons gedenk vanjaar ons eeuwording as universiteit. Die US het in 1918 met vier fakulteite, 503 studente en 40 dosente begin. Vandag spog ons met tien fakulteite en 'n dinamiese gemeenskap van meer as 30 000 studente en 3 000 personeellede op vyf kampusse in die streek. We thank everyone who has helped to mould this institution and cement its reputation as a world-class academic institution. At the same time, SU acknowledges its contribution towards the injustices of the past. For this we have deep regret. We apologise unreservedly to those who were excluded from the historical privileges that SU enjoyed. We also honour the critical Matie voices of that time who would not be silenced despite being ostracised. And in responsibility towards the present and future generations, SU commits itself to the ideal of an inclusive, world-class university in and for Africa.]*

*Ons jongste groep graduandi versinnebeeld dit waarvoor hierdie Universiteit staan – inklusiwiteit, uitnemendheid en sosiale impak.*

By the end of this week's graduation ceremonies, and following those of December 2017, we will again have awarded a record number of qualifications for a single academic year – 9 032 qualifications in total, including 1 620 master's degrees and 305 PhDs. These are phenomenal numbers! Clearly, Stellenbosch University is making an invaluable contribution as a national asset.

*Al ons nuwe graduandi by vandag se plegtigheid kom uit Ekonomiese en Bestuurswetenskappe – ons grootste Fakulteit. Om die waarheid te sê, daar is so baie van hulle, die Fakulteit is die enigste een met twee plegtighede vandeeweek (hul tweede een vind Vrydagoggend plaas). Welgedaan!*

Our Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences was created seven years after the University was established in 1918. Back then, it was a bold step, because the field of commerce was a novelty just appearing on the academic landscape. Soon, however, the success of this experiment became apparent, judging from the Faculty's continuous growth, the influence of its academics and the outstanding careers of its many alumni through the years.

The Faculty's current student numbers – some 5 200 undergraduate and 3 500 postgraduate students, with nearly as many women as men – are far removed from the first intake of only 15 men in 1925.

*In die hoëronderwys worstel ons steeds met die uitdaging van studiegeld en die finansiële volhoubaarheid van universiteite. 'n Aansienlike persentasie van ons studente sou glad nie universiteit toe kon gekom het as hulle nie 'n beurs ontvang het nie, en baie studente het bykomende geldelike hulp nodig om hul studies te voltooi.*

So, we welcome the recent announcement by the state that “fully subsidised, free higher education and training for poor and working-class South Africans” will be phased in. But we also know that the need is so great that additional bursary support will still be required. I therefore want to thank all donors helping us to provide opportunities to the next generation of talented students making an impact globally.

Ladies and gentlemen, we will this week be awarding more honorary degrees than usual, a total of 13 spread over six graduation ceremonies. We are doing this especially to mark our Centenary year. The recipients are all esteemed local and international thought leaders. Please read more about all of them on the University's website, [www.sun.ac.za](http://www.sun.ac.za)

Today's recipients / *Vandag se ontvangers:*

- Mr Patrice Motsepe, trailblazer for responsible corporate citizenship and business entrepreneur

- Mnr Jannie Mouton, bedrewe Suid-Afrikaanse sakeleier en filantroop

*Ons eregraduandi vergestalt nie net die kenmerke van die gegradueerde wat ons by ons studente wil inskerp nie, maar ook die eienskappe waarmee ons instelling graag die toekoms wil aanpak noudat ons die US se tweede eeu as 'n toonaangewende universiteit betree.*

*Ons gaan nou saam vorentoe ... masiye phambili ... forward together!*

*Aan almal van u wat hier voor my sit, wil ek 'n hartlike woord van gelukwense rig met die verwerwing van jou kwalifikasie. Ons hoop en vertrou dat die verworwe kwalifikasie na verdere studie sal lei, na suksesvolle en vervullende loopbane, of 'n versterking van 'n bestaande loopbaan. Bly in verbinding met jou alma mater deur die alumniportaal op die Universiteit se webblad sodat jy uitnodigings na alumnibyeenkomste, elektroniese nuusbriewe en Matieland kan ontvang.*

I also wish to congratulate parents, spouses and family with the achievement of your family member, husband or wife. In many an instance support probably went hand in hand with sacrifice, but we trust that the reason for your presence here today made it all worth while Thank you.