

**Launch symposium of the  
Frederik Van Zyl Slabbert Institute for Student  
Leadership Development,  
SU, 29 March 2011**

**Theme: 'Pragmatic and Ethical Leadership'**

**Welcoming address by  
Professor H Russel Botman,  
SU Rector and Vice-Chancellor**

**Bekendstellingsimposium van die Frederik Van  
Zyl Slabbert Instituut vir  
Studenteleierskapsontwikkeling,  
US, 29 Maart 2011**

**Tema: 'Pragmatiese en Etiese Leierskap'**

**Verwelkomingsrede deur  
prof H Russel Botman,  
US-rektor en -visekanselier**

*Dankie, voorsitter. Goeie middag, dames en here. Molweni. Good afternoon, and welcome to you all. Dis verblydend om so 'n groot gehoor te sien, veral op 'n gewone werk- en klasdag. Die goeie opkoms is vir my aanduidend van twee dinge:*

- *Die groot behoefte aan 'n inisiatief soos hierdie, wat die belangrike kwessie van jeugleierskap in ons land aanspreek;*
- *And the good turnout here is also an indication of an enduring respect for the man after whom this initiative is named, the late Dr Frederik Van Zyl Slabbert, 13<sup>th</sup> Chancellor of Stellenbosch University.*

*Dames en here, ons is bevoorreg om 'n aantal mense wat baie na aan Van Zyl was in ons midde te hê. Baie welkom spesifiek aan:*

- *Mev Jane Slabbert, Van Zyl se vrou;*
- *Me Marcia Haak, Van Zyl se tweelingsuster;*
- *Mnr Rudolf Gouws, 'n vriend van Van Zyl; en*
- *Dr Alex Borraine, ook 'n vriend en oudkollega van Van Zyl.*

Dr Borraine is of course one of our speakers today. Welcome also to all our other speakers:

- *Dr Betty Siegel, Emeritus President of Kennesaw State University and a good friend of Stellenbosch University. She is accompanied by her husband, Joel*
- *Ms Prem Coopoo, Dean of Students of the University of the Witwatersrand*
- *Mr Simphiwe Sesanti, Journalism lecturer here at Stellenbosch*
- *Mnr Jan-Jan Joubert, 'n MatieAlumnus en 'Rapport' se Politieke Redakteur;*
- *En die lede van ons studentepaneel:*
  - *Jan Greyling, Reggie Barry, Wiaan Visser, Nadine Moodie, Lovelyn Nwadeyi en Crystal McIntosh*
- *Welkom ook aan Dr Leslie van Rooi, die hoof van die nuwe Instituut; en*
- *Prof Magda Fourie, ons Viserektor: Onderrig.*

*Ek sien ook verskeie ander senior US-kollegas in die gehoor. Baie dankie dat u gekom het. A warm word of welcome also to all the Maties – and prospective Maties – here, as well as to students from other tertiary institutions.*

*Dames en here, vandag is 'n trotse oomblik in die geskiedenis van ons universiteit en ons land, wat ek bly is om met u te kan deel. We are here today to honour the legacy of a great South African leader and son of this university in the best way possible – by strengthening the ability of the youth of today to deal with the challenges of our time, and to take us into the future.*

If one looks at our society, we tend to spend a lot of time and energy and money on dealing with the legacy of the past, and on catering for the concerns of my generation because the people in power tend to be in their forties and fifties and sixties. *Die verlede is natuurlik belangrik, maar ons moet onthou dat die dag van more kóm, en nou is die tyd om ons voor te berei op die uitdagings wat op ons wag.*

The pace of change is tremendous and the world is complex. Technological developments are affecting not only how we interact with the world, but how we relate to each other. A mere decade ago, “social media” was a little known concept; today everyone is on Facebook and this symposium is being “tweeted” in real time.

Also “tweeted” live were the recent revolutions in Tunisia, Egypt and elsewhere in the Middle East. And the ones who rose up were young people. *Ek dink daar is twee redes hiervoor:*

- *Jongmense is in voeling met die universalisering van menseregte en demokratiese waardes wat besig is om wêreldwyd te ontvou. Daar is al hoe minder wegkruipplek vir diktators en kleptokrate*
- *En tweedens, jongmense wat nie goeie vooruitsigte op die toekoms het nie, het niks om te verloor nie. Dit is dan wanneer die totale omverwerping van die maghebbers die enigste manier raak om hoop te skep.*

We must learn from these events and take steps today to prepare for the future. Somebody who did this very well, was Dr Frederik Van Zyl Slabbert. Throughout his life – as a student and academic here at Stellenbosch, as a politician and political bridge builder second to none, as a political analyst and businessman, and finally, as Chancellor of his alma mater – he was a true visionary.

Towering head and shoulders above others, he could see which way society had to go, and he had the necessary powers of persuasion to herd us in the right direction. That is the mark of leadership, which is why we chose to attach his name to the University’s new Institute for Student Leadership Development.

In today’s world, it is no longer enough for universities to just provide graduates with an excellent academic qualification. Stellenbosch wants to develop well-rounded thought leaders who have broadened their horizons; young people who are committed to ploughing what they have learnt back into society.

We are working hard to ourselves be the change that we want to see in the world. Last year, Stellenbosch University launched the HOPE Project as a campus-wide initiative through which we are using this institution’s academic excellence and cutting-edge scientific research to search for solutions to some of the most pressing challenges facing South Africa, the rest of the continent and the world at large.

The Frederik Van Zyl Slabbert Institute is a HOPE Project initiative, and the first of its kind in higher education in South Africa. The head of the Institute, Dr Leslie van Rooi, will – I’m sure – explain the nuts and bolts later in the programme. Let me just state that the broad objectives of the Institute are to foster ethical leadership and provide students and other members of the youth with a transformative understanding of their role as leaders in an African and global context. It also aims to equip students with practical skills in leadership, communication, conceptual analysis and management.

What excites me tremendously is the opportunity that we – my generation and yours – now collectively have to transform our world and create a better future.

*Dis al van my kant af, dames en here. Baie welkom, weereens, en geniet die simposium.*