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FROM INSPIRATION TO ACTION

Inspiration is a feeling that motivates you to do something; to change something; to take the bull by the horns, so to speak. But these days, inspiration is a word often used haphazardly, so much so that it has lost its meaning. However, sometimes you hear a story that touches you and pushes you to action.

In my career as a journalist I have probably written tens of thousands of words, read even more words, and have compiled several publications. It is always a pleasure to read gripping stories and use them to compile a magazine.

This is my first *Matieland*. And again I experienced a few months of pressing deadlines, new ideas, but most of all inspirational stories about Stellenbosch University.

As a Matie I often walked along Victoria Street or across the *Rooplein* on my way to class, but I seldom wondered what happens in other campus buildings. In the meantime I have discovered how many wonderful stories there are right under my nose and how many Maties across the world do inspirational work.

A magazine like *Matieland* gives you an opportunity to discover why SU counts among the top universities in the world, why we are innovative, inclusive and future-focused, as well as how Maties make a difference in society. One cannot be but inspired by the stories of Dr Rust Theron, Blain van Wyk, Ethan Newman and others.

I hope they inspire you to become even more involved with Stellenbosch University.

Wayne

Matieland

EDITOR

WAYNE MULLER

CONTRIBUTORS

Design

Roann Louw

Layout

SUNMeDIA Stellenbosch

www.africansunmedia.co.za

Photography

Stefan Els (unless otherwise indicated)

Writers

Ilse Arendse, Mandi Barnard, Alec Basson, Karen Bruns, Christelle Feyt, Malena Fourie, Wiida Fourie-Basson, Jan-Jan Joubert, Amber Kriel, Leon-Ben Lamprecht, Sonika Lamprecht, Frik Landman, Frieda le Roux, Christopher Muller, Pia Nanny, Stephanie Nieuwoudt, Barbara Pool, Lynne Rippenaar-Moses, Wilma Stassen, Amanda Tongha, Naudé van der Merwe, Christo Viljoen, Joanne Williams, Heindrich Wyngaard

EDITORIAL OFFICE

Corporate Marketing
Stellenbosch University
Private Bag XI,
Matieland
7602

Tel: +27 (0)21 808 2927

Fax: +27 (0)21 808 3800

Email: matieland@sun.ac.za

CIRCULATION

Malena Fourie

Tel: +27 (0)21 808 4843

Fax: +27 (0)21 882 8405

Email: alumni@sun.ac.za

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LETTERS

Write to us at matieland@sun.ac.za, or comment on Stellenbosch University's Facebook page.



FOND MEMORIES OF BTK DAYS

What a joy it was to read the 2014 edition of *Matieland* with all its positive and good-news stories. Thank you very much!

The idea of establishing an archive collection was expressed on the last page (page 80). The reference to Ursula Stander's cutlery took me far back – to my BTK days from 1970 to 1972, and in particular one Sakkie Swart who was part of the group. A tall, thin student of historic rather than academic nature, and full of jokes.

After a meal, Sakkie would casually wipe his hands on his trousers with a nonchalant: "*Gelukkig het Maat mos vandag sy vadoek aan!*" ("Fortunately, Yours Truly is wearing his dishcloth today!"). And if you questioned him about the SU cutlery he used on tour, he replied: "*Maar dis mos myne; hier sien jy dan duidelik gemerk 'US' vir Usak Swart!*" ("But it's mine; see for yourself, it's clearly marked 'US' – for Usak Swart!")

Those were good times – being young, having fun, singing and sharing friendships. Nature was our canvas, our shared love for the BTK our paintbrush, and fellow students the colour palette with which we

created memories and captured unforgettable images in our minds. The kind that you recall, relive and reminisce over on the stoep of the old-age home! SU reserves copyright!

In the picture here is the BTK group (probably in 1971) in front of the Dutch Reformed Church in Citrusdal with Sakkie in the front row, fourth from the left. Yes, good times and great memories.

– Hannes & Carine Visser, Calvinia

S.U. LENDS WINGS TO NETBALL STAR'S DREAMS

As a Matie alumnus, I regularly receive *Matieland*, and now that our daughter is a first-year BAcc student at SU, I read it with renewed enthusiasm and interest.

I wish to share the following with reference to the story "SA Schools stars for Maties Netball" in a previous edition. On 9 August 2014, the Port Elizabeth *Weekend Post* reported on our daughter, Beane Weyers, who in that year became the first scholar to receive accreditation as an SA netball umpire.

As she dreamt of achieving SA A-accreditation as soon as possible, we contacted Karen Swart and Henriëtte van der Vyfer at Maties Netball last year with a view to possibly securing further mentorship for Beane. They immediately involved her in presenting umpiring courses

in the hostel league this year. Since then, Beane has umpired quite a few matches.

Now that her dream of becoming a Matie has materialised, and she even got admitted to her preferred residence, Nerina, we believe that people such as Karen and Henriëtte will capably guide her to also achieve her ultimate dream of becoming an international umpire.

This just goes to show that Matieland continues to attract quality students, offering them ample opportunities in various fields in order to reach their full potential.

All the best.

– Chris Weyers, Uitenhage

'MATIELAND' STORIES PRICELESS

A quick perspective on the *Matieland 2014*: The critical reflection on today's students by Max du Preez reminded me of how we went to disrupt "Lang Generaal Hendrik". Teargas, barking German shepherds and scowling policemen! We always took care to go in groups of 11. Anything more than that made it an illegal gathering! Max is right, those days are gone. What can we do?

On the brilliant story about Prof Piet Naudé's appointment – watch this space; there are great things to come.

To me, returning to Stellenbosch after 30 years and receiving so many opportunities from Anita Nel, Leslie van Rooi, Eendrag, Academia and the Faculty of Engineering last year is precious and means a lot.

– Van der Spuy Brink, Durbanville

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INSPIRING THOUGHT LEADERSHIP ACROSS AFRICA





Prof Xie Yingzhong, vice-president of Ningxia University, and Prof Leopoldt van Huisstee, SU's chief of operations and finance, sign the Ningxia agreement. Behind them are Zhang Huaiyi and He Jian of Ningxia; and Robert Kotzé, senior director of the Postgraduate and International Office. Photo: ANTON JORDAAN

S.U. BUILDS INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

As a world-class institution, SU boasts a number of international partnerships. In 2015, important partnerships were formed with overseas universities.

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences signed a cooperation agreement, primarily aimed at the PhD programme in Translation, with the Faculty of Arts of the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium. This agreement provides for exchange opportunities and the future conferment of a joint PhD degree by the two institutions.

The Department of Logistics in the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Swiss Kühne Foundation to help generate knowledge about humanitarian logistics. The Kühne Foundation is

highly respected worldwide for promoting education and further training and research in logistics and transport.

Memoranda of Understanding and partnership agreements were signed with the Erasmus (Rotterdam) and Ningxia (China) Universities respectively.

SU became the first local institution to form a partnership with Seeding Labs, an American organisation that offers researchers high quality and affordable laboratory equipment and educational resources.

The Department of Chemistry and Polymer Science received lab equipment and instructional software for undergraduate use.

Together with 14 other research-driven institutions from eight African countries, SU co-founded the African Research Universities Alliance to expand research excellence in Africa.

POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL FOR ECONOMIC AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCES

With its new postgraduate school, the Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences (EMS) helps to train the next generation of academics and to equip them with advanced research skills.

THE POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL MAKES IT EASIER FOR PEOPLE TO DO A PHD

This initiative offers bursaries to prospective doctoral students to study full-time and to complete their degrees within three years. Academic staff at the faculty can also complete their part-time doctorates within four to five years.

"The postgraduate school makes it easier for people to do a PhD in all the disciplines of the faculty. This will increase the number of doctorates substantially," says Prof Stan du Plessis, dean of EMS.

Dr Jaco Franken, manager of the postgraduate school, says: "Our goal is for graduates to be self-driven leaders who will assert themselves on many levels and apply their knowledge inside and outside of the university."

He adds that the initiative also aims to establish and strengthen networks between SU and other leading universities in Africa.

According to Franken, they received 160 applications for 10 full-time bursaries advertised for 2015. The school currently has 21 full-time students: 17 Africans (nine South Africans), three Europeans and one Chinese.

NAVIGATION APP FOR STELLENBOSCH CAMPUS

These days places change so quickly that one can easily get lost in an area where you once could have found your way blindfolded.

Fortunately, alumni visiting Stellenbosch campus after a while or SU staff and students looking for classrooms, buildings and facilities don't have to worry about getting lost.

SU's Divisions for Facilities Management and Information Technology developed a new smartphone and tablet application that puts the campus in the palm of your hand and makes it easier to find your way.

It is freely available on the App Store or iTunes (for iOS) and Google Play (for Android). The search phrase is "SU Facilities". This handy app allows users to explore the campus, to get information about campus facilities and buildings, campus transport, and GPS coordinates, among others.

It also offers an alphabetic table of contents about buildings, faculties, departments and more. Users can also report any problem they may experience to the facilities helpdesk.

With the interactive map – a first for a SA university – users can take a virtual tour of the campus. A new addition that is very popular is an integrated list of exam tables and venues.



Sindiswa Bangani and Beltus Sirathaza joined SU's Contact and Client Services Centre to serve clients who speak isiXhosa, isiZulu, Setswana or Sesotho.

CONTACT S.U. IN YOUR LANGUAGE OF CHOICE

People who wish to contact SU can now do so in their preferred language.

With the appointment of two new staff members, SU's Contact and Client Services Centre can assist callers in six of South Africa's 11 official languages.

Sindiswa Bangani, originally from Mfuleni and an alumna of Rhenish Girls High and SU, assists people in isiXhosa and isiZulu, while Beltus Sirathaza, from the Eastern Cape and an alumnus of the Cape Peninsula University of Technology, helps people in isiXhosa, isiZulu, Tswana and Sesotho.

ONE CAN SAVE A LOT OF TIME ONCE THE COMMUNICATION BARRIERS HAVE BEEN ELIMINATED

Besides these languages, clients are also assisted in Afrikaans and English.

According to them, those who call are usually very relieved when they realise they can communicate in the language they are most comfortable with. "They can immediately express themselves better," says Sirathaza.

"One can save a lot of time once the communication barriers have been eliminated," adds Bangani.

According to Darryn Havenga, head of the Contact and Client Services Centre, the isiXhosa/isiZulu line started off slowly as most people are used to pressing 2 as soon as they hear English. He says there are currently more calls in these two languages because the awareness of the language option increased.

Each day, the Contact and Client Services Centre handles about 160 telephone calls and emails between 08:00 to 16:30.

FACULTIES CELEBRATE 65 AND 90 YEARS

Two faculties of Stellenbosch University celebrated milestones in 2015. The Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences (EMS) is 90 years old, while the Military Academy (Milac) turned 65 years old.

The establishment of EMS in 1925 was a bold move by the university's senate in an era when commerce faculties only starting making its appearance on the university landscape. The success of this endeavour was soon clear and the faculty grew over the years.

Since its inception the faculty's student numbers have vastly increased,



Prof Stan du Plessis, EMS dean, with three former deans, Profs Johan Matthee (1996–2001), Estian Calitz (2001–2002) and Johann de Villiers (2003–2013), at the EMS 90-year celebration function.

from only 15 students in 1925 to more than 7000 in 2015. During this period (until March 2015) the faculty awarded 51 333 qualifications.

Milac, at the Saldanha campus, was established on 1 April 1950 as part of the University of Pretoria and a branch of the SA Military College at Voortrekkerhoogte. The purpose was to train cadets to the level of a

Baccalaureus degree.

In order to establish Milac as a separate entity and to facilitate the participation of navy students, it was decided in 1953 to move the Academy to Saldanha, and it has been part of Stellenbosch University ever since.

The first group of students started attending classes in Stellenbosch in 1955.

STAFF SUCCESSES

Prof Aslam Fataar (Faculty of Education) was honoured by the Education Association of South Africa, while his colleagues **Prof Yusef Waghid** and **Dr Liezel Frick** received awards from the Association for the Development of Education in Africa and the African Development Institute of the African Development Bank.

The South African Academy for Science and Arts honoured **Profs Johan de Villiers and the Libertas Choir, Leon Dicks** (Microbiology), **Lizette Rabe** (Journalism) and **Leslie Swartz** (Psychology).

Marina Joubert (photo) of the Centre for Research on Evaluation, Science and Technology (CREST) won a National Science and Technology Forum Prize.

Prof Erwin Schwella (School of Public Leadership) was invited to serve on an External Advisory Committee of the American

Association for the Advancement of Science for a project on science and policy.

Prof Stan du Plessis (Dean of Economic and Management Sciences) has been ranked first in the category Innovative Research in the *Financial Mail's* Ranking the Analysts 2015 survey.

Prof Rachel Jafta (Department of Economics) was invited to serve on the international advisory council of one of the world's best business schools, the Fundação Dom Cabral (FDC) business school in Brazil.

Celebrated theatre director and SU drama lecturer, **Marthinus Basson (photo)**, received a Fleur du Cap Prize for his lifelong contribution to theatre.

Prof Nulda Beyers (Desmond Tutu TB Centre, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences) and **Dr Wesaal Khan** (Department Microbiology) each received a South African Women in Science award.



FIRST VICTORIA STREET DREAM MILE

The Free State athlete and South African record holder in both the 1 500 m and the mile, Johan Cronje, earlier this year became the first athlete to run a dream mile in Victoria Street at the fifth Dagbreek/Maties Street Mile.

A dream mile is the mile (1 609 m) covered in less than four minutes.

The Street Mile Festival is held annually in the picturesque Victoria Street on the Stellenbosch campus as part of SU's Woordfees and is hosted in conjunction with Maties Athletics.

Cronje also won in 2013. Sibusiso Madikizela, coached by former middle distance runner Elana Meyer, was

second, while Maties athlete, Llewellyn Groeneveld, came third.

The race is held annually in honour of SU alumnus De Villiers Lamprecht, who, on 13 November 1964, became the first South African to run a dream mile.

Lamprecht is a former resident of Dagbreek and was the first athlete in the world to complete a dream mile barefoot and went on to break the magical four-minute barrier five times.

Since Lamprecht, 57 South African athletes managed to run a dream mile. The 50th anniversary of the first South African dream mile was celebrated at Coetzenburg Athletics Stadium last year



Dream mile winner Johan Cronje (left) with Sibusiso Madikizela and Llewellyn Groeneveld.

RESEARCH UNIT PROMOTES DEMOCRACY

A newly formalised unit, the Transformation Research Unit (TRU): Democracy Globally, was established at SU.

The TRU will build on the work of its predecessor – an informal international research team that has been studying democracy since 2000. The TRU members include many international and leading senior

political scientists, economists, sociologists and historians who examine democracy comparatively across cultures from an economic, political and social perspective with a particular focus on South Africa, South Korea, Chile, Poland, Turkey, Germany and Sweden.

“By analysing and comparing countries we hope to come to

understand better what the universal and specific factors are that shape democracies in the different cultural settings,” explains Prof Ursula van Beek, head of the TRU.

The TRU is based at the Centre for International and Comparative Politics in the Department of Political Science.

FUNDING FOR RESEARCH IN AFRIKAANS AND ISIXHOSA

Prize money of R500 000 will be awarded from 2016 by Het Jan Marais Nationale Fonds (HJMNF) in collaboration with Naspers and SU to an academic or researcher working in Afrikaans and whose work contributes to strengthening it as an academic language and medium of scientific research.

Stellenbosch University will also

create a fund of R150 000 to develop isiXhosa as an academic language.

The Jan H Marais prize, the largest of its kind for Afrikaans, was announced earlier this year by Prof Andreas van Wyk, chairperson of HJMNF, at a dinner marking the creation of the fund 100 years ago.

“With this prize we will acknowledge excellent scientific

work and publications in Afrikaans,” Van Wyk said. He mentioned that the idea for the prize came from a remark made by Prof Wim de Villiers, SU rector and vice-chancellor.

The first award ceremonies will take place in Stellenbosch on 26 May 2016.

SU will award the isiXhosa funding annually.



STATUES AS STATEMENTS

2015 was the year in which statues and symbols fell on university campuses. So what does the future hold for histories and the preservation of heritage?

By **JAN-JAN JOUBERT**

It's tough to be a statue these days. You have so much to deal with: wind, weather and those darn pigeons. But on top of that your very survival is at stake. Blink once and you're gone – another case of a statue fallen. Not that you even asked to be there in the first place.

Jokes aside, in the ever-changing beloved country, the symbols and symbolism of the past are as contested as the way of the future. Street names, place names, statues of heroes – who, apart from their concrete, bronze or iron shapes, are often deemed to have feet made of clay – are subject to the signs of the times. Cecil John Rhodes has been toppled at Ikeys, and Jan Marais may lose his view of the Rooiplein if Open Stellenbosch gets its way.

The Matie campus is not exactly overcrowded with statues. The most prominent examples are the group of stern old men in front of the Faculty of Theology's angel factory, Jan Marais (Our Benefactor, apparently – but whose?) and Doc Danie Craven with

his trusty dog, Bliksem, by his side, as ever.

The bust of Dr DF Malan has been removed from the former DF Malan Memorial Centre, now known as the Coetzenburg Centre. In fact, a reasonable number of politicians' names have given way – the BJ Vorster Building has been renamed the Arts and Social Sciences Building and the HF Verwoerd Building now goes by Statistics and Accounting. Of all the old premiers, only JC Smuts is clinging on for dear life – but "Slim Jannie" was a Sap, completely acceptable in some circles these days, apparently.

But what of the previous rectors and vice-chancellors who may have potentially overstayed their welcome? Wilcocks was a Sap himself, as was Doc Danie Craven. Prof Gawie Cillie's legacy, on the other hand, is a whole different kettle of fish. Any argument that there was a tangible difference between the ideologies of HB Thom and Dr DF Malan will not survive a reading of Thom's preface to Malan's autobiography *Afrikaner-volkseenheid en my ervarings op die pad daarheen*.

Take for example the following extract from that preface, which is not only a horrific example of

**IN THE EVER-CHANGING
BELOVED COUNTRY,
THE SYMBOLS AND
SYMBOLISM OF THE PAST
ARE AS CONTESTED AS
THE WAY OF THE FUTURE**

apportioning the reader's thoughts using the pronoun "we", but also of the way in which Thom not only thought along the same lines as Dr Malan, but sometimes chose to think on the old man's behalf.

Thom writes: "While Dr Malan was busy with the last chapters of this book, his physical strength wasn't what it used to be. We feel this as we read these last chapters. He doesn't elaborate on the big things he had played a part in. We get the feeling that the work isn't concluded with the sense of detail that we would have preferred. We do, however, close the book with a feeling of deep gratitude in our hearts: deep gratitude because the Lord spared this great, true leader of our nation to put his memories to paper in his own time."

What do "we" say to that? Being politically subservient to the powers that be clearly goes way back. The same goes for name changes: Today we have Thaba Tshwane, before that it was Voortrekkerhoogte, before that Roberts Heights, and what it was called before the Voortrekkers arrived, heaven only knows.

The current rector and vice-chancellor, Prof Wim de Villiers, recently endured the wrath of far-right groups with northern roots after the removal of a commemorative plaque in honour of Dr HF Verwoerd in the building no longer called the Verwoerd Building.

The rector said: "We have to go forward at all times. Sometimes the path will be well-lit and the journey easy; other times the road will be rocky and the journey heavy. And that's how it should be – change is never easy. The most important thing is to keep talking to each other."

De Villiers says he isn't currently aware of any remaining names of buildings on campus that might offend people, with the possible exception of the JS Gericke Library. The rector is asking for continued dialogue in the spirit of what NP van Wyk Louw called the "open conversation".



Prof Albert Grundlingh of Maties' History Department says in essence the ructions at the University of Cape Town aren't necessarily about Cecil John Rhodes as a person, his role in history, or even his legacy.

"Student leaders openly acknowledge that Rhodes is singled out to point to other issues, one of them being what they call the 'radical decolonisation' of the university. Even with the removal of the statue, that agenda would still be on the table," Grundlingh points out.

"The way in which this agenda materialises is not primarily about having a rational discourse, but rather about who is powerful enough to wield the ideological sceptre of knowledge – an established tradition based on liberal assumptions on face value, or a challenging African nationalist vision, serving as counterbalance?"

"How exactly such an African nationalist ideology is supposed to play out in global context is still

covered in a misty haze," he says.

"The noise emanating from the UCT campus also raises a broader issue: the politics of statues. On a conceptual level, there is immense confusion between history as a study of past occurrence on the one hand, and heritage on the other, something that merely represents a moment from the past by means of, say, a monument.

STUDENT LEADERS OPENLY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT RHODES IS SINGLED OUT TO POINT TO OTHER ISSUES

"History – as it develops and is dissected by historians – can be complex, nuanced and often contradictory. But heritage in the form of monuments is selective

and performative with an often unambiguous and over-simplified message, relating only a specific idea in a specific historical timeframe.

"It is not often that these ideas stand the test of time, and in South Africa the tests of time are severe indeed," says Grundlingh, who points in part to Afrikaner treatment of competing history narratives as an example of relative tolerance.

"Even though Afrikaners opposed the imperialist ideal, they didn't always convey their displeasure and hostility towards British symbols in dramatic fashion. Instead, they erected their own monuments and tried to express their own past and future aspirations.

"The fact that these attempts had the possibility of offending other population groups wasn't considered often enough. However, after 1994, Afrikaner monuments like the War Memorial of the Boer Republics in Bloemfontein, were key to acknowledging the role of black participants in the Anglo Boer War.

"It is also important to look at how Afrikaners dealt with imperial symbols in broad terms.

During the 1947 Royal visit to South Africa, in spite of their opposition to the tour, they were mindful to behave in an impeccable manner.

"No one would have thought of disrupting the proceedings, and nobody would have even remotely considered besmirching the King's train with excrement.

"A hallmark of the politics of South African monuments is that it seldom conveys complex thought, rather employing heritage superficially in an effort to highlight a set of grievances. And remember, monuments



can't respond to criticism," says Grundlingh.

Bongani Mgijima, director of the Stellenbosch University Museum, was loath to express himself on matters not directly associated with museum studies, but pointed out that museums often deal with controversy in their decisions on which artefacts to exhibit and conserve.

"Exhibited artefacts can be interpreted differently by visitors. There is nothing wrong with that. There are many different interpretations of the past, after all," said Mgijima.

He answers rather dolefully to a question on whether museum pieces sometimes become useless. "Currently there is ample consensus that all problematic artefacts should be sent to museums. More often than not, unpopular artefacts find their way to storage spaces inside museums, away from the eyes of the public!"

Mgijima believes artefacts which might offend sensitivities should be exhibited accompanied by different interpretations, without prescribing to the visitor which interpretation is preferable. He argues everyone's own world view and experience should shape each individual interpretation.

Mgijima's colleague, Prof Matilda Burden, says one must always remember that statues and name-giving is actually just manifestations of a timeframe and Zeitgeist.

"In South Africa the tendency for centuries has been to name places and buildings after the rulers of the day. In other countries there is an understanding that history is made up of many layers - giving new things new names whilst retaining the names of the old. But South African struggles with this.

"It is necessary to change hurtful names, but it becomes problematic when change is the only constant, especially when politicians' names are simply replaced by those of other politicians. In principle there is no progression," says Burden.

For now, she has the last word on this issue: "The layers of history must be respected - all names shouldn't just be changed. Names of people tend to divide more than other names.

"It's always important to remember that people make mistakes, especially politicians. Every issue generates at least two competing views. And maybe it can be an enriching experience to give room for the view of the "Other", the view which differs from one's own."

• Jan-Jan Joubert studied journalism at Stellenbosch and heads the Sunday Times' parliamentary bureau.



**OUR
RESEARCH**



A VISION FOR RESEARCH

Cutting-edge research is a priority for Stellenbosch University's Business School (USB). And with their clear vision, this academic department is destined to make a huge impact in the world of business.

By **HEINDRICH WYNGAARD** and **AMBER KRIEL**

Just over a year ago Prof Piet Naudé, a Matie alumnus, philosopher, theologian and academic of note, joined the Business School (USB) of Stellenbosch University as the new director, armed with a short priority list.

These included safeguarding

the school's 50-year legacy as a provider of business education, as well as ensuring that USB's global reputation, demonstrated through its three international accreditations (AACSB, EQUIS, AMBA), remained intact.

"We stand on the shoulders of those who came before us," he would say, "but we will honour

this legacy of excellence as best we can."

This brings one to the other priority Naudé listed on his arrival at USB, which is to encourage high-quality research, or the creation of new knowledge. He reiterates: "One can easily forget that USB is first and foremost an academic department of Stellenbosch

University and therefore has a very specific research mission.”

Naudé says the business school only enrolls postgraduate students, and – apart from work done by its academic staff – the annual research output of USB’s Master’s and PhD students is quite considerable.

It is required of every Master’s student to do a research assignment as completion of their chosen programmes, be it Master’s in Business Administration (MBA), MPhil in Development Finance (MDevF), MPhil in Management Coaching, or MPhil in Futures Studies.

Recent examples of the level of research produced by top students are: Christie Koorts’ MBA research project on consumer sensitivity regarding the use of personal information in relationship marketing; Hennie Mansvelt’s MBA research project on green IT; Steve Motsi’s MDevF research project on the pricing behaviour of banks in sub-Saharan Africa in the aftermath of the 2007/2008 global financial crisis; as well as 2014 Director’s Award winner Jennifer Wörner’s MBA research project on luxury travel.

Senior research consultant Dr John Morrison plays an important role in assisting students to create a researchable study out of often rough ideas. “Most students have wonderful ideas but have little clue of how to package it as research. However, once the two connect, wonderful knowledge is created,” says Morrison.

For him, the research process starts with posing a compelling question about the intended research topic, and knowing where the data for the study is to be found. This assistance from Morrison enables students to constructively engage with study leaders or supervisors.

One such study leader is senior lecturer Dr Babita Mathur-Helm, who not only supervises students but who also emphasises the importance of publication when she interacts with them. “Publication happens when you’re inclined to do it; when you have an intention to do it,” she believes.

On the PhD side, programme head Dr Heidi Raubenheimer points to the fact that even a thesis in examination – Daniel Malan’s “The power of responsibility: Integrative social contracts theory and the United Nations global impact” as a case in point – has the ability to impact and create anticipation way before graduation.

Singling out two examples, she talks about USB’s current first “coaching”-oriented PhDs. One such study is in the examination phase, namely Michelle van Reenen’s “Towards a conceptual framework of coach supervision for internal coaches within South African organisations”. The other, Nicky Terblanche’s study “A coaching framework to

facilitate transformational learning during senior leadership transitions”, is just starting out.

Of such quality is the research at USB that students often find themselves moving on to become lecturers, as has just happened with Ghanaian national Dr Joseph Akotey, who was appointed as lecturer in Development Finance after graduating with his PhD from USB in March 2015.

The head of the USB Development Finance programmes, Prof Charles Adjasi, is also an alumnus who completed his PhD at USB.

One of USB’s foremost researchers, Prof Sylvanus Ikhide, heads the PhD programme in Development Finance. “Course work is vital for this programme before the actual research starts,” he says.

“Thereafter, the focus is on producing high-quality research articles that can be published in good journals. Our aim is to ensure up to ten published papers in journals in another two years from now.”

Ikhide produces two examples of the latest progress: Development Finance PhD student Elina Amadhila successfully submitted a paper for publication in the *African Review of Economics and Finance*. Ikhide and a fellow researcher, Innocent Bayai, also presented a paper on financing and financial sustainability of microfinance at the 5th International Research Conference on Social Economy, held in Lisbon, Portugal, in mid-July this year.

Naudé again: “We prioritise research because what builds a business school’s long-term reputation is its intellectual credibility. Business leaders must know we provide evidence-based solutions. Students must know our curriculum content and research supervision contain the best and latest knowledge insights. Our network of international peers must see academic value in our relationships. And accreditation bodies must never doubt the quality and impact of our intellectual endeavours.”

This year, Prof Mias de Klerk was appointed to head USB’s research portfolio with the primary objective to restructure this portfolio to efficiently facilitate USB’s intellectual contributions.

De Klerk says that evidence abounds that USB has excelled in practice-oriented research with a strong developmental focus. He also points out that of the ten best articles produced over the five years up to 2014, nine focused specifically on Africa “and thus directly supports our vision to be globally recognised as *the* knowledge partner in Africa”.


In line with his own priority list, Naudé concludes: “To cut back on research is to cut off the oxygen that brings life to USB.”

• *Heindrich Wyngaard and Amber Kriel works in USB’s publicity division.*

VOYAGE TO THE ICY CONTINENT

The *SA Agulhas II*'s return voyage to Antarctica is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for any researcher. A group of postgraduate students of Stellenbosch University (SU) joined the 2015 voyage to conduct their research on the world's coldest continent.

By **WIIDA FOURIE-BASSON**



The ancient Greeks believed that there had to be a *Terra Australis Incognita* in the far south to “balance out” the northern areas of Europe, Asia and Northern Africa. However, it was only in 1820 that the Antarctic continent was first sighted by the Russian expedition of Michail Lazaref and Fabian Gottlieb von Bellinghausen.

Antarctica is the coldest place on earth – the lowest temperature ever, -93°C , was recorded at the South Pole on 10 August 2010. The average winter temperature is not much better, though, normally hovering around -83°C .

With a surface area of 14 million km^2 , Antarctica is the world's fifth-largest continent after Asia, Africa, North America and South America. Over 90% of the world's fresh water is found here, locked in a 2.5 km-thick ice sheet.



The research projects of the postgraduate students of the Department of Earth Sciences addressed various aspects of the same problem, namely to improve our understanding of algae growth in the Southern Ocean, as well as the circulation of essential chemical elements and their impact on CO₂ levels in the ocean and atmosphere. Three postgraduate engineering students also installed an extensive cabling system and sensors on the *SA Agulhas II* in order to explore the ship's "habitability". Photo: *ROSCA DE WAAL*



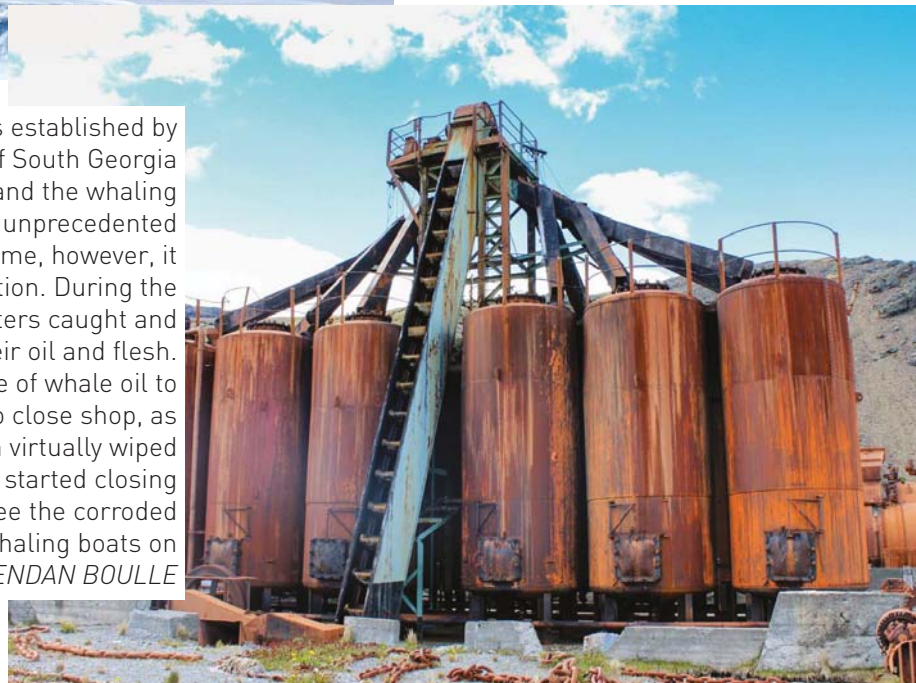
From the outset, the ship *SA Agulhas II* was intended as a scientific research and supply ship as part of the South African National Antarctic Programme (SANAP). SANAP manages the SA National Antarctic Expedition's bases in Antarctica as well as on Marion and Gough islands in the Southern Ocean. Each year, scientists may apply to join the *SA Agulhas II*'s return voyage to Antarctica and conduct experiments and take samples of the seawater while on board. *Photo: ROSCA DE WAAL*



The supplies for South Africa's research base in Antarctica are stored in a 4000 m³ hangar in the ship's bow. A 35-ton crane and three general cranes weighing 10 tons each are used to load the scientific equipment and vehicles onto the ice sheet. From there, it is transported 160 km inland to SANAE IV at Vesleskarvet. SANAE IV is built on top of a dark, rocky ridge (a so-called *nunatak* or glacial island) on the edge of the Ahlmann mountain range, and is completely surrounded by the glacial ice sheet. *Photo: JETHAN D'HOTMAN*

The world's southernmost whaling station was established by the Norwegian Carl Anton Larsen on the island of South Georgia in Grytviken Bay in 1904. Others soon followed and the whaling industry in the Southern Ocean experienced an unprecedented boom for the next three decades. At the same time, however, it very nearly wiped out the entire whale population. During the 1930/31 hunting season, legal and illegal hunters caught and slaughtered more than 40 000 whales for their oil and flesh.

By the 1930s, overproduction caused the price of whale oil to plummet to a record low. Whale hunters had to close shop, as species such as the humpback whale had been virtually wiped out by then, and whaling stations on the island started closing one after the other. Today, visitors can still see the corroded remnants of the whale factories and even old whaling boats on the island. *Photo: BRENDAN BOULLE*





Penguins are synonymous with Antarctica and the rough icy waters of the Southern Ocean. But actually, only the emperor penguin (pictured here) can withstand the extreme sub-zero temperatures and winds of up to 200 km/h in the winter months. Up to 5000 of these penguins normally crouch together in colonies to survive the bitter cold. Breeding colonies of other penguin species – such as the Adélie penguins – can be found on the northern tip of the Antarctic Peninsula, where conditions are somewhat more favourable.

Photo: JARRED VOORNEVELD



Back home in Stellenbosch – the team members of the Department of Earth Sciences (front, from left to right) are Hendrik Smith (24), Leigh-Anne Palmer (21), Natasha van Horsten (30) and Mari Scott (22), and in the back, Gillian Trollope (22), Ryan Cloete (23) and Jean Look (23). *Photo: STEFAN ELS*



In 1775, the famous Captain James Cook wrote about the abundance of seals on the island of South Georgia. A decade later, the first British seal hunters arrived, ushering in a very cruel and inhumane period in the island's history. By 1825, they had taken some 1,2 million fur seals from the area. It took another eight decades before the industry hit a slump when the fur seal population was on the verge of complete extinction. A research expedition in 1952 found that there were only 500 fur seals left on the island.

Photo: DOMINIC ROLLINSON

WHAT THE CREW SAYS

The students had to brave 16 m-high waves, seasickness, cabin fever and a flooded laboratory while navigating 10 000 km of the world's most remote and treacherous seas.

"That woozy feeling is awful, especially when the sea is really rough. But at the same time, it constantly felt as if I was on an adrenalin-charged roller coaster. I come from a family with

wanderlust, and Antarctica is a dream destination – who wouldn't want to travel and do what you love, all in one," says Jean Look.

"The first time the ship broke the ice was incredible. I could stand there watching for hours – if only it wasn't that cold," he adds.

Ryan Cloete says: "The biggest challenge was the short space of time in which we had to familiarise ourselves with all the new

analytical techniques and scientific jargon before our departure, and writing exams on top of it.

"I remember I ran to the ship's bow to see my first iceberg. It was incredible, like when we first saw the mainland – literally a wall of ice, 40 m high and extending as far as the eye can see."

Mari Scott says her father was extremely excited, as he personally would have loved to visit Antarctica.

AT THE LEADING EDGE

Stellenbosch University (SU) continues to conduct research with a real impact on society. In 2015, many studies were completed in various fields, with very interesting results. Here are a few.



BILLIONS FOR SHARES

Dr Nicolene Wesson **(photo)**, a senior lecturer at the University of Stellenbosch Business School (USB), explored a fairly under-researched field in the investment sector. In her PhD study, "An empirical model of choice between share buy-back and dividends for companies in selected JSE-listed sectors", she demonstrated that in the period 1999 to 2009, South African companies spent billions of rands to buy back their own shares. She worked through thousands of annual reports to source the data she needed for her study – information that is not readily available.

HOPE FOR CHILDREN WITH TB MENINGITIS

Children with tuberculosis (TB) meningitis now have a much better chance of survival thanks to a study by Dr Ronald van Toorn, a senior specialist in Paediatric Neurology at SU and Tygerberg Children's Hospital. As part of his doctorate in Paediatrics, he sought ways to improve the outcome of TB meningitis in children. This severe form of tuberculosis in children

occurs when TB bacteria penetrate the membranes and fluids around the brain and spinal cord. Over the course of four years, Van Toorn studied 184 children with TB meningitis to determine whether the treatment at Tygerberg was safe and effective. He found a positive outcome in 80% of the children, with a post-treatment mortality rate of only 3.8%.

BANK CHARGES DURING FINANCIAL CRISIS

Zimbabwean Steve Motsi **(photo)**, top performer in USB's MPhil programme in Development Finance for 2014/15, chose to study the steadiness of bank charges in sub-Saharan Africa following the global financial crisis of 2007/8. His research proved that the banks in sub-Saharan Africa hold monopolies, which have remained unaffected by the financial crisis. His objective was to improve understanding of how banks may position themselves to provide small enterprises with more development finance, in which the cost of banking products plays a vital part.



RECONSIDER YOUR INTERNET PASSWORD

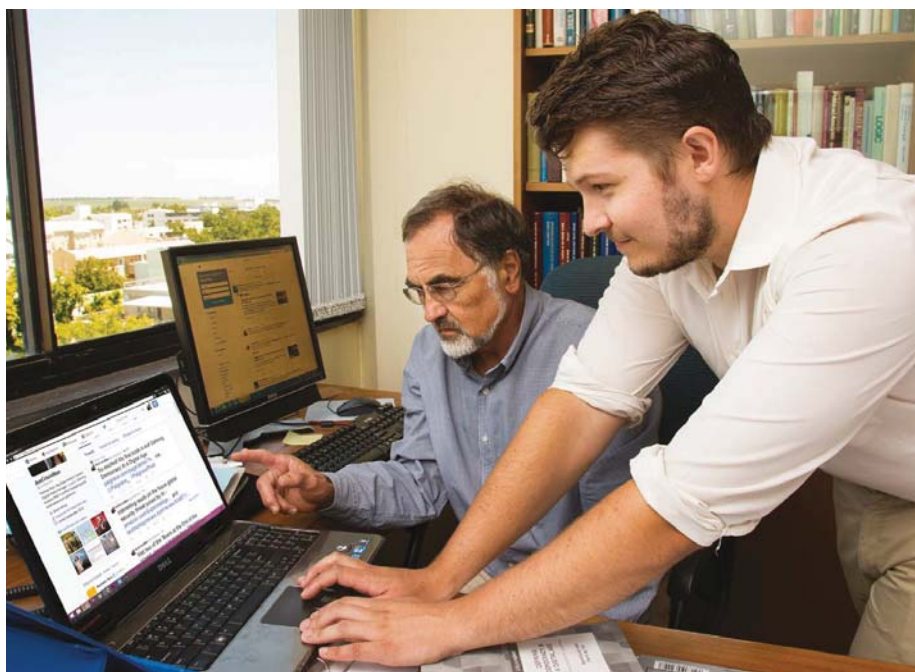
South African internet users should step up their password practices to protect themselves from cybercriminals. This was the finding of Prof Rika Butler from SU's

School of Accountancy and Martin Butler from USB. In a survey of South Africans' password practices, they found that only one in every five local computer users regularly change

their passwords, even though the risk associated with not doing so is well known. Not being password-alert may result in financial losses when users fall victim to cybercriminals.

MEASURING #DEMOCRACY

In a new book, Barend Lutz and Prof Pierre du Toit **(photo)** from SU's Political Science Department describe how their research has led to a method to measure public expression in support of democracy on Twitter. In the publication, they focus on social media platforms and how computer linguistics can be harnessed to make sense of this landscape. Their research demonstrates the changes that have taken place in the spaces where democracy occurs, and emphasises the need for analysts of democracy to view these new spaces from a different perspective.



FYNBOS SOIL FOR NEW ANTIBIOTICS

The healthcare sector is fighting an uphill battle against harmful bacteria that have become resistant to most antibiotics. And with very few new antibiotics being developed, the lives of millions of people worldwide may be in danger. In his search for new antibiotics, Dr Du Preez van Staden **(photo)** of the Department of Physiological Sciences examined bacteria-rich fynbos soil to identify those bacteria that produce antimicrobial substances. The results of his search showed that the bacteria in fynbos soil produced lantibiotics, which actively counter various bacteria, including methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*.

Stellenbosch



Stellenbosch

Bedrooms: 10
Jeanette Cilliers
082 563 8497

Bathrooms: 9
Web: ENV67513
ZAR 19,5 million



Paradyskloof

Bedrooms: 4
Gert Bezuidenhout
082 441 6494

Bathrooms: 2.5
Web: ENV83063
ZAR 4,95 million



Die Boord

Bedrooms: 3
Maggie Smit
083 712 5716

Bathrooms: 2
Web: ENV83053
ZAR 3,8 million



CBD

Bedrooms: 1
Maggie Smit
083 712 5716

Bathrooms: 1
Web: ENV81126
ZAR 1,546,996 million



CBD

Bedrooms: 1
Gustaff Calitz
082 806 0658

Bathrooms: 1
Web: ENV82410
ZAR 1,285 million



CBD

Bedrooms: 1
Louis Heyns
082 728 4680

Bathrooms: 1
Web: ENV80809
ZAR 635,000

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Luxury lifestyle with quality features and state of the art fibre optic cabling. These 3 bedroom double story townhouses offer exceptional value and all homes come standard with build in braai, covered patio and double garage

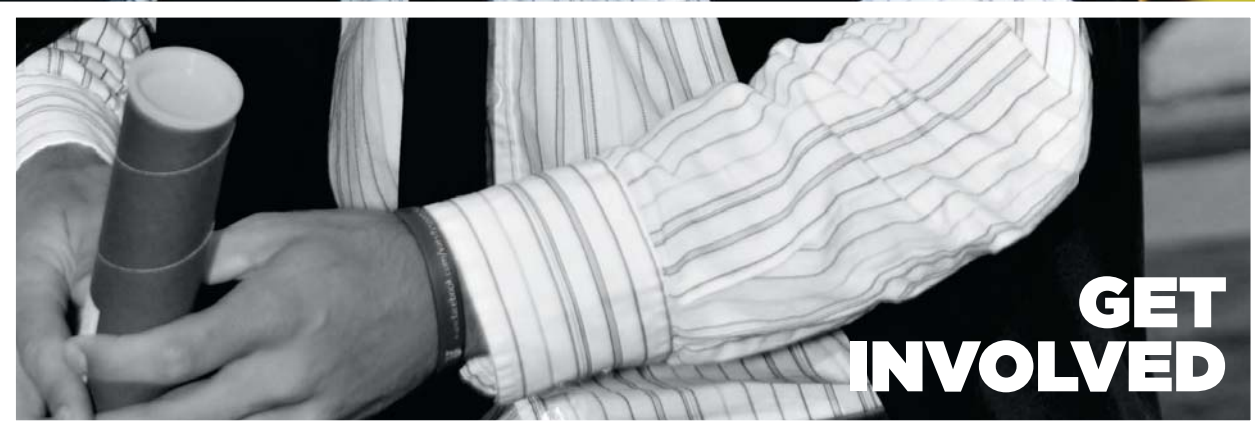
Price from R 1,589, 9 million
Louis Heyns +27(0)82 728 4680

BUH-REIN
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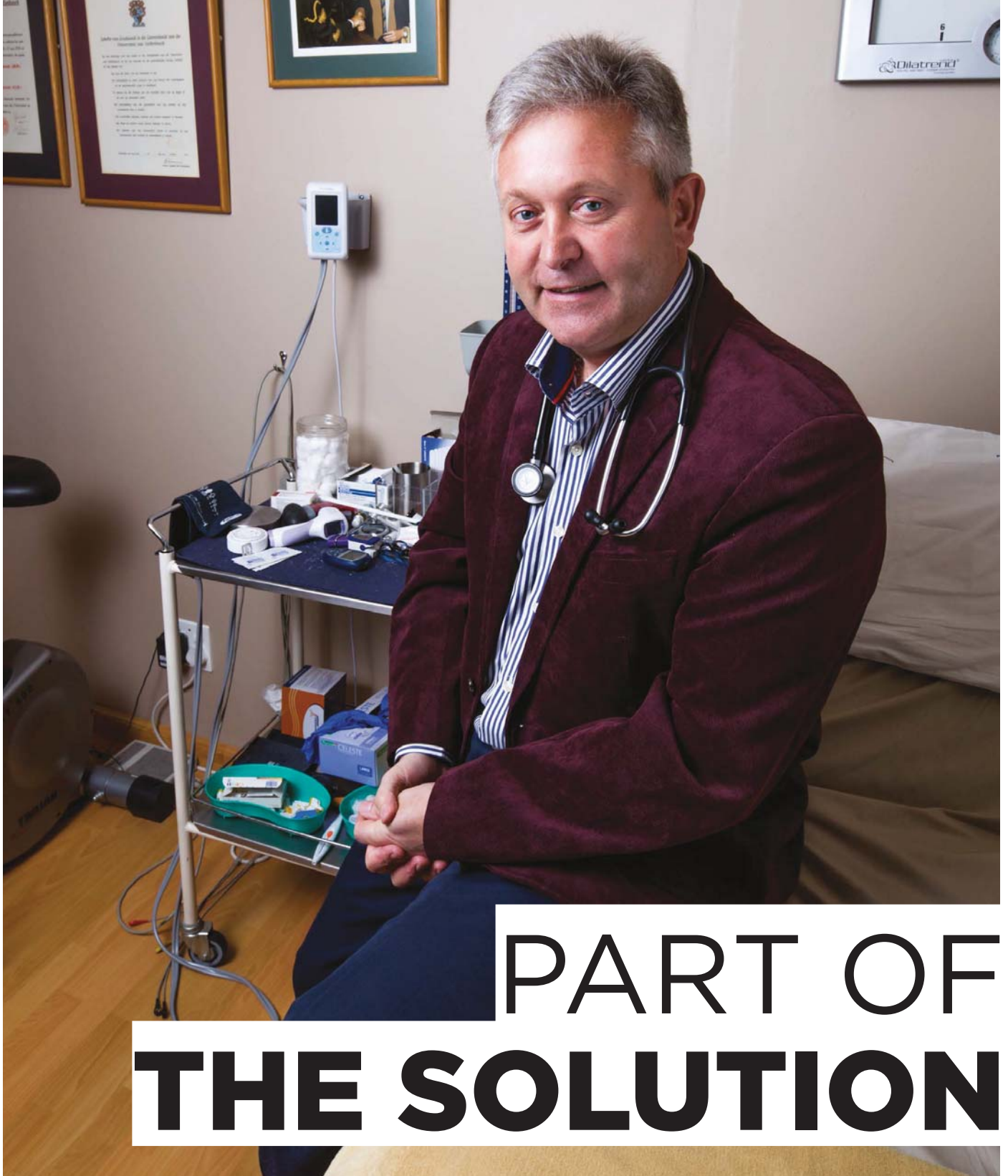


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**GET
INVOLVED**



PART OF THE SOLUTION

As a medical student at Stellenbosch University, one of Dr Rust Theron's lecturers served as his inspiration – so much so that he has now started a project to assist aspiring doctors with their training at SU. It's time to give back, he believes.

By **ILSE ARENDSE**

Medical specialist Dr Rust Theron's diary is full and his time limited. But this Matie alumnus and specialist in internal medicine at Durbanville Mediclinic still finds the time to make a positive difference and do his bit to help train new doctors.

Theron was instrumental in establishing a ground-breaking collaboration between private hospital group Mediclinic and Stellenbosch University's Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences (FMHS). SU role-players in this initiative, which piloted in 2014 at Durbanville Mediclinic in Cape Town's northern suburbs, include Profs Rafique Moosa, chief executive of the Department of Medicine, as well as Elvis Irusen, chairman of the undergraduate programme in Internal Medicine, both from FMHS.

This project creates the opportunity for medical students from SU to complete a part of their undergraduate training at accredited Mediclinic hospitals. During the pilot project, medical students in their fourth and fifth year of study underwent their four-week rotations in internal medicine at the hospital and received clinical training from doctors in private practice.

Based on the success of the pilot, FMHS and Mediclinic have since decided to expand the programme, including another three hospitals in the Mediclinic group, namely Mediclinic Cape Gate, Mediclinic Louis Leipoldt and Mediclinic Panorama.

You were instrumental in turning this project into a reality. Why the desire to become involved?

I came across statistics that indicated that our country was facing a severe shortage of doctors. Medical schools can increase their student intake, but the problem is with the clinical rotations. For instance, there simply aren't enough consultants to take these students on hospital rounds. Often, this means that up to 22 students accompany a single consultant. As Mediclinic had already started training nurses in the private sector, I first approached the hospital group and then SU's medical faculty with the idea of offering undergraduate students clinical rotations in the private sector. The university was already busy exploring similar options, and the rest is history.

What added value does this training offer students and doctors?

Being in private practice, we get to see another type of pathology, which these students do not always encounter at Tygerberg. At Mediclinic, they have the latest technology and equipment at their disposal, and as they work alongside a specialist in a 1:1 or 2:1 ratio, each student rotating here receives much more personal training. Students are also more comfortable asking questions in such a small group

as opposed to the groups at Tygerberg, where third-years, fourth-years and even student interns are bunched together on rotations.

The pilot project was a success. What can be expected next?

We are looking at rolling out the project to other disciplines also, such as orthopaedic surgery. Specialists in other cities such as Port Elizabeth and Bloemfontein have also expressed interest in replicating the project at their institutions. So, it does seem to have a substantial ripple effect!

Have you retained a strong connection with your alma mater?

For some time now, I have been lending a hand as an examiner of student interns in their final exams, as well as of postgraduate specialists writing their internal exams. Quite a few students have also completed their compulsory electives under my supervision.

Who was your inspiration when you were a student?

One of the people who made the biggest impression on me during my medical training was the late Prof Helmut Weich. He

always made time to help students with their training, and at the end of a rotation with him, he invited you to a fish braai at his home. There, Prof – barefoot and in shorts – personally welcomed

you at the door. Then he would serve you the entire evening and truly make you feel at home. When one day, one of his colleagues asked him why he did it, he replied: "The chances are that one of them will have to look after me when I'm old, and not the other way around!" Now, I try to follow his example, taking care to invite those students rotating with us to a braai and a social at the end of their rotation.

IT'S EASY TO SIT BACK AND CRITICISE, BUT I CHOOSE RATHER TO BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

How strongly do you feel about making a difference?

As with the Eskom power crunch, South Africa is heading for a crisis in terms of the number of doctors graduating in relation to the size of our population. It's easy to sit back and criticise, but I choose rather to be part of the solution. I also believe that every doctor in our country has a duty to help where they can to alleviate this problem. However, this project is not a one-man show – without the support of my various colleagues who also form part of the programme, it would never have succeeded.

• *Ilse Arendse studied journalism at SU and is currently responsible for the University's alumni communication.*

NYUKELA!

“Nyukela” means “going up” in isiXhosa. So let us tell you about Maties across the world who are moving up in their respective fields.



Riaan Olivier is the new head of Southern African Business for Stanley Black & Decker (SBD).

With an MBA and a Master's degree in Electronic Engineering, Olivier is highly qualified to take Stanley Black & Decker to the next level and grow its South African operations.



USB MBA alumna **Zibu Mthiyane** is currently a Mandela Washington Fellow for 2015 as part of

President Barack Obama's Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI). YALI embodies Obama's commitment to invest in the future of Africa. Mthiyane, who graduated in December 2014 with an MBA degree from the University of Stellenbosch Business School, is the CEO of Zoluhle Polymerics, a company specialising in the design and manufacturing of synthetic steel products. She also made the list for *FinWeek*'s top women to watch in 2015.



Abel Sithole has been appointed to the position of principal executive officer (PEO) of the

Government Employees Pension Fund (GEPF). For the past six years, Sithole has been with the Institute for Futures Research (IFR) at Stellenbosch University. He holds an MA (International Relations) and MPhil (Futures Studies).



Isa Omagu, USB Advisory Board member and chairperson of the USB Alumni Exco, has been appointed as general

manager of Guaranty Trust Bank PLC in Lagos, Nigeria. Omagu completed his MPhil in Development Finance (MDevF) in 2011.



Lynn Naudé is the new chief executive officer of the Absa Cape Epic. Naudé, who obtained a BA Law degree, has

extensive experience with world-class sporting events, ranging from managing heavyweight sponsorship portfolios including the Springboks, Bafana Bafana, Absa Currie Cup, the Absa Premiership and the KKNK to working on rugby and cricket world cups, the Wimbledon tennis tournament and the 2010 Fifa World Cup.



Randall Ohlson is the new principal at Pacaltsdorp Primary School in George. Ohlson completed an Advanced

Certificate in School Management and Leadership in 2012.



Bertho van der Westhuizen

has been chosen to take over the reins from his well-known father, Schalk, at

the iconic red wine producer Alto in the Golden Triangle outside Stellenbosch. Bertho van der Westhuizen obtained his BSc degree in Viticulture and Oenology in 2002.



— ALUMNI —

COME HOME TO MATIELAND

It's always great to come home to Matieland, writes KAREN BRUNS, senior director of Development and Alumni Relations. So make sure you attend the Maties Homecoming and Family Weekend in March 2016.

Since joining Stellenbosch University in mid-February this year, I've had the opportunity to travel with the new rector and to meet alumni close by and very far away. When chatting with you, it seems clear that very many people would like to revisit Stellenbosch and to reconnect with their alma mater. We'd like that too – in fact, we'd love it.

Traditions in other parts of the world abound for alumni returning to campus for a homecoming and family weekend, and we are setting off down that path – to create an annual opportunity for alumni from all years, all faculties and all residences to revisit our university!

Friday 4 March to Monday 7 March 2016 is the planned Maties Homecoming and Family Weekend. It's also the first weekend of the Woordfees, so please make your accommodation bookings early.

There will be residence reunions where each residence will facilitate its own engagement, and will share these plans shortly.

An opportunity, as alumni, to play golf at one of the local courses, or an early morning mountain bike ride on the new trail above Coetzenburg is on the cards. Also, campus tours and a walking tour of Stellenbosch to see how much has changed and how much is still the same.

Engage with our incredible young people by attending a leadership discourse café where

alumni will share leadership experiences with the leaders of tomorrow or in the Smart Ideas Exchange. Here you will see the wide range of exciting research and innovation activities taking place at our university.

There will be faculty reunions where you can meet the dean, previous deans, your old and new professors, and greet your classmates. And a Distinguished Alumni Dinner with our rector, Prof Wim de Villiers, and our 40 distinguished professors and ten faculty deans.

For the recent graduates, there will be a tented party, and for those who graduated in the 1960s and in the 1980s, luncheons are being arranged by key people in these groups. (We'll keep you updated on this.)

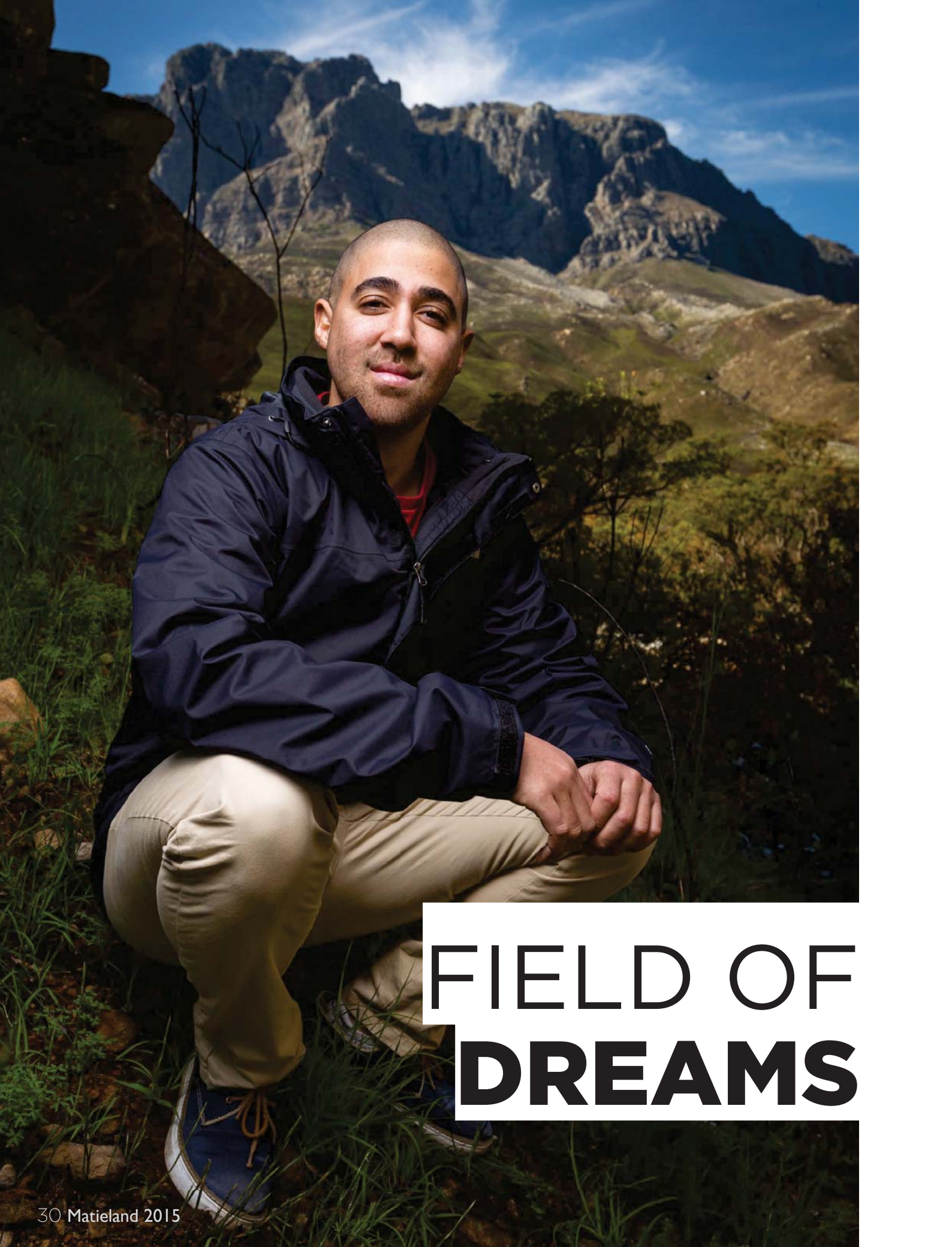
And in between, there are over 120 Woordfees events going on in our town.

We know that you'll be keen to get your maroon on, as on Monday, 7 March, Maties face the UFS Shimlas in the Varsity Cup at Coetzenburg. Our boys need you!

We'll share the registration details on our alumni website shortly. But put it in your diary now, tell your friends, and please come. Matieland so looks forward to sharing our end-of-summer Homecoming and Family Weekend with you.

• For more information, please contact Marvin Koopman at alumni@sun.ac.za or call +27 (0)21 808 4020.

**WE KNOW THAT
YOU'LL BE KEEN
TO GET YOUR
MAROON ON**



FIELD OF **DREAMS**

In August 2015, Ethan Newman was the recipient of the National Research Foundation's research excellence award in the category for male next-generation researchers. It was not only his passion for nature which set him on this dream career path, but also valuable bursaries and awards.

By **WIIDA FOURIE-BASSON**

As a postgraduate student in the Department of Botany and Zoology, 28-year-old Ethan Newman has already presented five conference papers and published four research papers in high-impact international journals like *Evolution* and *Annals of Botany*.

Prof Bruce Anderson, study leader for his honours and now also his doctoral research, says this young student's keenness for biology is unrestrained.

"I have never met another student with as much enthusiasm for his subject," he says.

Yet this did not come without hard work, perseverance and commitment. Newman says as a child he wandered for hours around the Renosterveld nearby his home town, Wellington, collecting reptiles, insects and spiders.

But it was only in high school that his interest in plants became an overriding passion: "I was specifically interested in rare bulbs and orchids, and I enjoyed taking pictures of them and their interactions with pollinators."

He also mentions his biology teacher at Huguenot High School, Lorraine Kuun. "I also had many friends at high school who were just as passionate about natural history as I was. We spent a lot of time exploring in the veld. It was during these adventures that I realised I wanted to become a botanist," says Ethan.

To follow this career path would require a tertiary education, which could have been financially challenging.

Bursaries gave Newman the opportunity to follow his dream career. As a postgraduate student he received various scholarships, merit bursaries and grants: the Ernst and Ethel Eriksen Trust Scholarship (2013-2015); Stellenbosch University Merit Bursary for PhD students (2014-2015), the NRF Innovation Scholarship (2014-2015); NRF SKA Travel Grant (2013 & 2015); National Geographic Young Explorers Grant (2013 & 2014) and the NRF Scarce Skills Scholarship (2012-2013).

Newman started collecting data for his honours project on the cluster Disa (*Disa ferruginea*) and its pollinator as an undergraduate already. The mountain pride butterfly (*Aeroptes tulbaghia*) is the only insect that pollinates the cluster Disa and it has very specific and localised colour preferences.

This research field is important, as pollinator populations worldwide have been falling, with serious implications for food security. Scientists are also worried about similar declines in the pollinator populations of wild plants. Without these pollinators, hundreds of native plants are likely to go extinct.

Newman often disappeared into the veld for days on end, collecting data on Table Mountain and the Langeberg Mountain in Grootvadersbosch Nature Reserve. A year after completing his honours project, the research was published as an article in the international journal *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*.

"This was a defining moment in my career," admits Newman.

For his MSc, he is continued with the research he started as an

undergraduate. This time he focused on the berg lily (*Nerine humilis*), which is pollinated by the enigmatic long proboscis fly (*Prosoeca longipennis*).

Because of his rapid research progress, he was granted a National Geographic Young Explorer's award. In the second year of his Master's studies, his MSc project was upgraded to a PhD.

Anderson is full of praise when he describes Newman's work ethics and natural field skills.

"The first chapter of his MSc thesis was adapted into an article and published in *Annals of Botany*. The second chapter has been accepted as a research article by *Evolution*, an extremely difficult journal to get published in. "For both of these research articles, Ethan did the bulk of the field work, all of the statistics and most of the writing."

Newman was the first author on these articles, and his co-authors were Anderson and Prof Steven Johnson of the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN).

Currently, Newman is also learning French after he has been accepted as an exchange student at the University of Montpellier as part of the Erasmus Mundus exchange programme.

His ultimate goal is to follow a career in the biological sciences. "Today I realise how fortunate I am, to be able to pursue my dreams when most of my peers have given up before they even tried.

"My passion for science is not something that I have acquired; it is an integral part of me."

• *Wiida Fourie-Basson is the marketing officer of the Faculty of Science.*



BURSARIES CHANGE LIVES

For many aspiring students, going to university and receiving a degree seems like an unattainable dream. But programmes like the SU Bursary Fund can change their dreams into reality. You can help realise that dream.

By **ILSE ARENDSE**
Photo: **ANTON JORDAAN**

NEARLY HALF OF ALL OUR STUDENTS ARE RELIANT ON BURSARIES

It is indeed a dream to go to university, experience student life, and receiving a degree which allows you to practice a career which you love. But this need not only be a dream.

"We all know that the unique and enriching experience of becoming a Matie is not accessible to all. Not everyone can afford university studies, especially in a country like South Africa with high levels of poverty and inequality.

"Nearly half of all our students are reliant on bursaries or other forms of financial support, without which, they would not be able to further

their studies with a view to becoming productive members of society," says Arrie Hanekom, head of Stellenbosch University's Bursaries and Loans Division.

"And that is where worthy initiatives such as the SU Bursary Fund comes in," he adds.

This bursary fund is SU's annual giving programme, geared towards fostering a philanthropic community in support of student success. It is part of SU's vision of being an inclusive, innovative and future-focused institution, and fulfilling its tasks of research, teaching and learning, and making a social impact.

"This year alone we allocated bursaries to seven students, totalling R256 200 and this was made possible through generous donations from alumni and friends of SU. I believe together we can make higher education the conduit for change in Africa."

As an alumnus or friend of the university, you are essential to our mission and can help us make a difference in education – the future of our country. No matter how big or small, your gift can change many lives for the better. It could buy text books or computers, fund a field study, or help create the best teaching and learning spaces for the 21st century.

HOW TO GIVE

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Our easy-to-use online giving platform (<http://t2000-05.sun.ac.za/donorPay/faces/formAlumniMain.jspx>) makes donating safe and secure. Your online donation will be handled by GivenGain, a secure payment gateway to process online donations. An SSL encrypted (secure socket layer) link and non-storage of card authorisation information means that your data will never be compromised by third parties. You can donate to Stellenbosch University from the safety of your own internet banking account via EFT (go to www.sun.ac.za/matieland and click on "Donate"). Enter the name of the gift opportunity you wish to support in the beneficiary field (or equivalent) of your internet bank service.

CONTACT

Please contact our Development and Alumni Relations office for further information on the various projects that you can support.
Phone +27 (0)21 808 4020 or e-mail alumni@sun.ac.za.

TAX BENEFITS

Individual and corporate donors to Stellenbosch University receive tax benefits under South African income tax law. The amount of the deduction is capped at 10% of taxable income, which could present quite a sizeable tax saving. In the USA and UK there are options for donating to Stellenbosch University in a tax-efficient way. The full rand value of your bequest is deductible in determining your net estate duty liability. Contact Hugo Steyn on +27 (0)21 808 3615 or e-mail hugos@sun.ac.za.

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These include:

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- Deans' Funds (in the faculty of your choice)
- Residences and Societies
- Operational costs (equipment and ad hoc human resources needs)
- Named research chairs (for the duration of the funding).

A revenue-funded (current-use) research chair requires on average R2 million per annum to support a top researcher and his/her team.

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These include:

- Stellenbosch Trust
- Named research chairs
- Endowed bursaries or scholarship funds
- Endowed Deans' Funds

The cost to endow a research chair in perpetuity at a South African university falls in the region of R30 to R38 million. This is based on certain assumptions for growth in the future.



CONVOCATION

LONG LIVE THE RECTOR

PROF H CHRISTO VILJOEN, president of the Convocation, provides a brief history of past rectors at SU.

After King Charles VI of France passed away in 1422, the succession of the monarchy and the new monarch's accession to the throne was marked by the proclamation *Le roi est mort, vive le roi!* (The King is dead; long live the King!). Following the sudden and tragic demise last year of Prof Russel Botman, the first rector and vice-chancellor of SU who died in office, we proclaim to his successor, Prof Wim de Villiers, *Vive le recteur!*

In its nearly century-long existence as a university, Stellenbosch University had only nine university heads who bore the title rector, five of whom carried the joint title rector and vice-chancellor.

However, the title of rector did not always refer to the chief executive officer of the university. Following the establishment of SU, Prof JJ Smith was appointed chairman of the senate (1918-1919). The first rector was Prof GG Cillié (sr) (1919-1925). At the end of his term, the university reverted to the title chairperson of the senate for Profs SFN

Gie (1926), W Blommaert (1927-1933) and RW Wilcocks (1933-1935). In 1935, Prof Wilcocks was awarded the title rector, the position he held until his retirement in 1954. From then on, rectors carried the joint title rector and chairperson of the senate. Prof HB Thom

(1954-1969) succeeded Wilcocks, while Prof JN (Jannie) de Villiers held the office of rector from 1970 to 1979.

Prof MJ (Mike) de Vries (1979-1993) was the first university head who carried the joint title rector and vice-chancellor. Another four – up to and including the present Prof WJS (Wim) de Villiers – bearing the double title, succeeded him.

The SU Statute describes the office of rector as “the rector is the vice-chancellor of the university and is appointed by council ... (as) the chief executive officer of the university”.

On the other hand, the “chancellor is the titular head of the university and confers all degrees in the name of the university”, and he/she has no executive powers. At SU, council is responsible for university policy making, while the rector is responsible for putting policies into practice.

Initially, the position of vice-chancellor was separate from the position of rector. In 1918, Prof A Moorrees was elected vice-chancellor and chairperson of the university council.

Judge HS van Zijl (1933), Dr Karl Bremer (1950-1953) and the Rev JS Gericke (1953-1979) succeeded him.

Rectors will be remembered in particular for laying the groundwork for renewal and innovations they initiated in their time. SU was established in 1918 with four faculties, namely Arts and Philosophy; Mathematics and Physical Science; Agriculture; and Education. Prof GG Cillié's term as rector saw the establishment of the Faculties of Theology (1920), Law (1920), as well as Business and Administration (1925). The Faculty of Engineering (1944) was established during Prof RW Wilcocks' tenure.

Prof HB Thom's term was characterised by many additional expansions with the founding of the Faculties of Medicine (1956), Forestry (1956), Military Science (1953), and Dentistry (1965). In 1956, the number of students reached three thousand, with twelve faculties. Today, we have ten times as many enrolled students, with ten faculties.

Two faculties, Forestry (that was converted into a department in the Faculty of AgriSciences) and Dentistry (which in 2001 became part of the Faculty of Health Sciences and in the wake of pressure by government was transferred to the UWC) fell away as faculties. Other departments that fell by the wayside were Italian, Afrikaans Cultural History, Archaeology, and Consumer Science.

Our rectors will not only be remembered for the above expansions, but also for the new initiatives they introduced during their tenure. The first vice-rector, Prof Wynand Mouton, was appointed in 1975 during the term of Prof Jannie de Villiers. Vice-rectors also made their presence felt through their unique contributions: they include Prof JWR (Roux) de Villiers (1979-1987), the driving force behind the Neelsie Student Centre; and Prof WT (Walter) Claassen, who will be remembered for promoting a culture of research.

Prof De Vries will also be remembered for his firm stand against the then National Party government and its plans to extend its policy of separate universities while SU had already opened up its doors to students of all races.

It is obvious that with the dawning of the 21st century, the joint responsibilities of rector and vice-chancellor can hardly be compared to those of rectors a century ago. There is no doubt that even the university of the not too distant future will differ substantially from the university of today, given the emergence of new communication technologies and teaching and learning methods, and the likelihood of increasing pressures from outside. The Convocation wishes Prof Wim de Villiers every success in dealing with the challenges of what is evidently an enormous task.

**RECTORS WILL
BE REMEMBERED
FOR LAYING THE
GROUNDWORK
THEY INITIATED IN
THEIR TIME**

IN MEMORIAM

Matieland would like to honour SU alumni who have passed away. The university has noted with regret the passing of the following alumni.

Prof RH (Richard) Behrens (89) of Stellenbosch. BA (1946) Teacher's Diploma in Piano (1946) Certificate in Choral Conducting (1947) BMus (1948). Former Dagbreek resident. Served as an SU Conservatoire staff member for 40 years and headed up the Department of Music from 1961 to 1988.

Prof PA (Philip) Black (68) of Stellenbosch. BComm (1968) HonsBComm (1970) MComm (1970). Former resident of Wilgenhof. Served in SU's Department of Economics.

Mr JV (Johannes) Büchner (86) of Gauteng. BComm (1948). Former Dagbreek resident.

Mr AJ (Ammie) Coetsee (88) of Pinetown. BSc (1953). Former Dagbreek resident.

Dr TJDEV (Tobias) de Vos (77) of Silverton. MComm (1964).

Prof JJ (Johan) Degenaar (89) of Somerset West. BA (1946) MA (1948) DPhil (1951). Political philosopher and former professor in SU's Department of Philosophy.

Prof TP (Tom) Dreyer (78) of Stellenbosch. BSc (1956) HonsBSc (1958) MSc (1959) PhD (1972). Served in SU's Department of Applied Mathematics.

Mr PJ (Piet) du Plooy (49) of Namibia. BA (1986) HonsBA (1987) HDE (1988) MA (1992). Former resident of Simonsberg.

Prof JB (Koos) du Toit (89) of Stellenbosch. BA (1945) MA (1947) DPhil (1956). Former Wilgenhof resident. Former professor of Sociology at the UWC Cape.

Mr MJ (Matie) Geldenhuys (72) of Strand. BComm (1970) HonsBComm (1973). Former resident of Dagbreek. Founded Maties Travel in Stellenbosch in 1978.

Prof HJ (Johannes) Grosskopf (87) of Stellenbosch. Journalist and former head of SU's Department of Journalism.

Mrs RE (Rosina) Joubert (96) of Stellenbosch. Teacher's Diploma in Home Economics (1940). Former Harmonie resident.

Dr GJR (Guillaume) Kotze (70) of Wellington. BSc Agriculture (1967) MBChB (1978). Former resident of Eendrag.

Mr MDW (Marthinus) Laubscher (78) of Senekal. BSc Agriculture (1957). Former Dagbreek resident.

Mrs C (Christina) le Roux (née Lötter) (87) of Brentwood Park. BA (1949). Former resident of Huis ten Bosch. Initially worked at the SABS in Pretoria; later reporter at the local paper *Lyttleton Nuus*.

Mr JP (Kobus) le Roux (87) of Brentwood Park. BScEng (1949). Former Dagbreek resident. Worked at the Post Office, Iscor, IBM, Sentrachem and University of Pretoria.

Ds JV (Hannes) Londt (91) of Mossel Bay. BA (1944). Former resident of Dagbreek.

Mr DT (Danie) Loubser (89) of Hermanus. BA (1945) SDE (1946). Businessman in the automotive industry on the West Coast, and well-known restaurateur.

Prof HA (Hennie) Louw (85) of Stellenbosch. BSc Agriculture (1951) MScAgric (1955). Former dean of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences at SU from 1973 to 1990.

Mr GF (Gabriel/Abie) Malan (78) of Uptington. BSc Agriculture (1957) MScAgric (1959). Former resident of Huis Marais. Former Springbok hooker, captain and selector.

Prof PCJ (Peter) Maree (81) of Stellenbosch. BSc Agriculture (1955) HonsBScAgric (1963) MScAgric (1964) PhD (1986). Former Wilgenhof resident. Lecturer at Elsenburg Agricultural College and appointed in SU's Department of Agronomy in 1976. Was promoted to professor in 1988 and served as head of this department until his retirement in 1995.

Mr WS (Sphiwe) Mboyane (37) of Sunnyside. HonsBJourn(2000). Former journalist for the *Sowetan* and *Business Day*, as well as editor of *The Weekly* in the Free State.

Ds PH (Philippus) McDonald (73) of George. BA (1962) HonsBA (1964) BTh (1966) LicTheol (1967) (all obtained cum laude). Former resident of Wilgenhof. Rector at the theological seminary in Zimbabwe.

Mr PJ (Petrus) Meiring van Meerensee (92). BComm (1945). Worked for the Maize Board in Klerksdorp and Pretoria.

Ds HW (Henry) Murray (50) of Zimbabwe. BA (1973) BTh (1977) LicTheol (1978). Former resident of Huis Marais. Vice-principal and lecturer of Missiology at the Murray Theological College in Zimbabwe.



Mev H (Hester) Nel (gebore Smit) (59) of Hermanus. BSc (1976) HDE (1977). Former Heemstede resident. Mathematics teacher. Presented extra maths lessons for SU's HOPE Project in the Overberg district.

Mr PDW (Petrus) Olivier (91) of Somerset West. BEdPH (1947). Former resident of Dagbreek. Hailed from Tarkastad and worked in Port Elizabeth.

Prof HW (Herman) Roos (71) of Faerie Glen (71). BAdmin (1968).

Prof RD (Ronald) Sanderson (72) of Stellenbosch.



Ms TM (Tsholofelo) Segone (23) of Mmabatho. BScAgric (2014). Former resident of Serruria.

Mrs CBVS (Cosette) Smuts (gebore Toerien) (91) of George. BA (1942).

Prof JP (JP) Smuts (81) of Somerset West (81). BA (1950) HonsBA (1957) BEd (1959) HonsBA (1960) MA (1968) DLitt (1975). Former Huis Visser resident. Served in SU's Department of Afrikaans and Dutch.

Mrs EF (Elizabeth) Spangenberg (87) of Kimberley. BA (1947) SDE (1948). Former Monica resident. Former teacher.

Adv WP (Willem) van Drimmelen (73) of Pretoria. BA (1962) LLB (1967). Former resident of Simonsberg. Advocate, radio and TV commentator, as well as captain of international rugby and cricket teams.

Mrs TS (Theresa) van Vuuren (gebore Jacobs) (53) of Graaff-Reinet. BAcc (1984). Former Sonop resident.

Mr DW (De Wet) van Zyl (88) of Somerset West. BSc Agriculture (1949). Former resident of Dagbreek. Worked at the then Fruit Research Institute and later at Bayer Agro-Chem.

Dr DL (Denise) Venter (40) of Somerset West. BEng (1995) MEng (1997) PhD (2001). Former post-doctoral fellow and lecturer in SU's Department of Process Engineering.



Dr L (Louise) Verster-Baise (58) of Johannesburg. MB,ChB (1980). Practised as anaesthetist in London.

Prof PJ (Pieter) Wentzel (83) of Durbanville. BA (1957) HonsBA (1961) MA (1961).

• Send information to alumni@sun.ac.za or phone +27 (0)21 808 4843.



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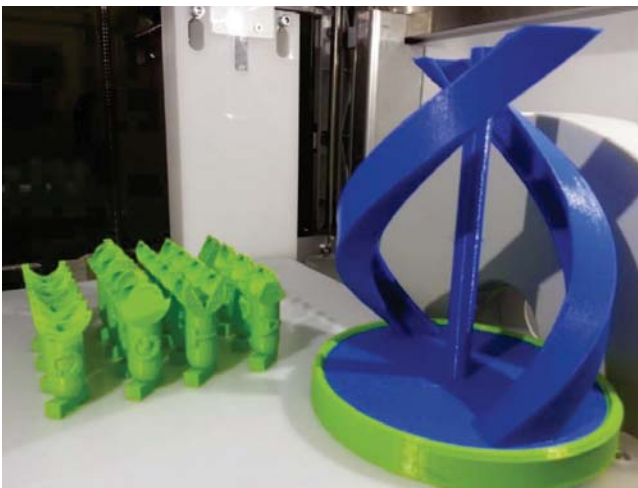
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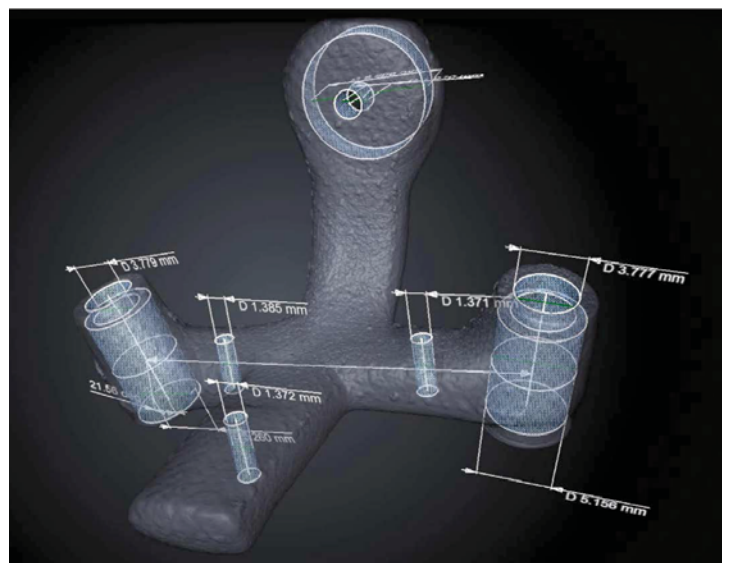
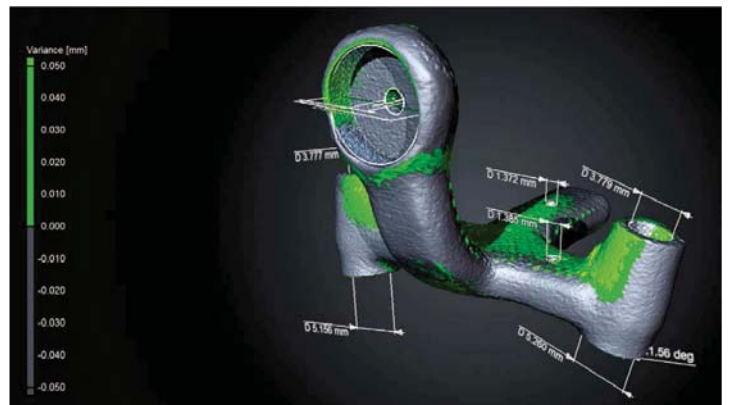
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YOUR UNIVERSITY



PROF WIM IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT

On 1 April 2015, Prof Wim de Villiers became Stellenbosch University's (SU) twelfth rector. The man who hates the frequently-used label "Slim Wim" and was involved in student activism talks about the road ahead for SU.

By **JAN-JAN JOUBERT** Photos: **ERHARDT THIEL**

The wooden floor glistens and steam rises from his cup of coffee as the new rector shifts into his seat, readying himself for yet another person trying to get to his core; pen in hand like the sharpest of scalpels.

So what do we already know? Prof Wim de Villiers was born in Stellenbosch Hospital, the youngest child of the late Prof AB de Villiers, who later became dean of the Maties Law Faculty. Prof Wim matriculated in 1977 from Paul Roos Gymnasium, obtaining the highest marks in the province, and in 1983 passed his MB,ChB degree at Stellenbosch with distinction. He received the Francie van Zijl and Chancellor's medals for academic achievement. In 1990 he was awarded an MMed degree, specialising in internal medicine, also with distinction, by the same university.

Foreign shores beckoned and he exchanged SA for Oxford where he was awarded a DPhil in immunology, followed years later by a Master's degree in health administration from

Harvard. In-between these, he was appointed to several senior positions at the University of Kentucky, USA.

Why then leave a glamorous international academic career to return to the challenges of South Africa, first as dean of health sciences at Ikeys, and now the tough position as Stellenbosch's rector in times of change and uncertainty?

"I'm a South African, and so is my wife (Catherine). It was never our intention to leave South Africa permanently, but the initial plan to leave for 18 months turned into 18 years. After my MBA, I was interested in what makes big systems function and I wanted to paint on a larger canvass. That's why the position as dean at the University of Cape Town was such a wonderful opportunity.

"The opportunity to come to Stellenbosch was unexpected. And it's not just about being of service. It is, in part, also the celebration of a wonderful own education and of opportunities, which create responsibilities. Where is Stellenbosch positioned? A lot has been achieved and we have such potential for intellectual and social impact. I was just grateful that the

**IT WAS NEVER OUR
INTENTION TO LEAVE SOUTH
AFRICA PERMANENTLY, BUT
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INTO 18 YEARS**



Prof Wim de Villiers delivers his inaugural lecture in April 2015. Photo: HENNIE RUDMAN

language issue has been mostly dealt with by my predecessors.”

“You wish, Prof Wim,” a lot of people would say to this likeable grey-haired man who’s Afrikaans resembles that of a true Bolander, but with the remnants of an acquired American accent when he speaks English.

When talking about his best memories of being a student here, he differentiates between the curricular and “extramural” – what the rest of us might call student fun.

“Many people find my best curricular memory somewhat bizarre. It was during my second year of study, when medical students get to dissect a cadaver for the first time. One really gets to experience the wonder of physiology and anatomy; the structure of being human. At the same time you are exposed to the communal experience of working in a team – a sense of security.

The journey into the past animates

this rector who hates the over-used label “Slim Wim” slapped on him by others. Then he checks himself, focuses and answers firmly: “But nothing beats intervarsity at Newlands when it comes to co-curricular learning.”

“It’s important to remember that this type of experience has very little to do with the language in which you are being taught. In the academic world a lecture is basically an opportunity to facilitate; a means to an end. The most important place to learn is not in the lecture hall.

It’s both academic and co-curricular, and a very good example is the LLL concept (Listen, Live and Learn, the communal student housing for Maties from different backgrounds).

“For example, in any wide-ranging project, 40% of ideas would work

**MANY PEOPLE FIND MY
BEST CURRICULAR MEMORY
SOMEWHAT BIZARRE**

excellently, 20% would kind of work, and 40% would fail. The success of the HOPE Project, my predecessor Prof Russel Botman's brainchild, will be continued. The LLL Project is an example of how to cultivate respect and tolerance."

But why come back here when many current currents are moving in the other direction, out of the country?

"The world is actually a small global community. And in the USA there are 12 000 gastroenterologists. Will they miss me?"

He grins, as if people are unaware he has been a fixture in the publication *Best Doctors in America*, and explains: "Proportionally speaking, you can make a much bigger difference in South Africa. This is anecdotal, but my daughter held a senior position in Chicago before she moved back to South Africa. Since moving back, she believes

she has more opportunities to make a meaningful difference locally, even if everything doesn't go according to plan all the time. Both

my daughters now live in South Africa. My son is a teacher at an inner-city school in California."

For parents whose children want to work overseas, he has simple advice: Accept it.

For the younger generation: Spread your wings, and gain experience to truly make a difference.

His appointment invoked mixed responses: "*Die Stellenbosse boys kom weer* (translating loosely to "Stellenbosch's good old boys return"), some said, with glee or apprehension. Yet more wondered: What about those who are not "Stellenbosch boys"? What of those who could never become them? Are they inferior in some way, and are their children destined to always be the Other?

De Villiers sees this label as "a pity, and a positive".

"I was born here, and grew up

here, but from my second year I studied at the Tygerberg campus. So actually I was in Stellenbosch for only 19 years, and I've been away for more than 30." De Villiers acknowledges that he's from here, but he's also from far away. And he realises something many people may not like: "I have a lot of American in me, combined with a shot of managerialism."

"Maties is run well. A university is a business with a corporate identity – business-like but not business 'lite'. I have an inherent knowledge of the local undercurrents because I'm from here, and that's a positive thing.

"Everyone says: 'Welcome to the hot seat.' I'm new. I try to reach everyone and try to listen to as many people as possible. This university is full of wonderful people who do wonderful work, much of which isn't known widely enough. As a brand we are performing below our capability. My aim is to change the university from being primarily a teaching institution, to being primarily a research institution. Currently, 40% of our students are postgraduate, and I want to raise that number."

At the office

His most positive experience to date as vice-chancellor happened when he and his wife came house-hunting. It was Open Day at the university, a Saturday. "All the busses from all the schools, from everywhere – all our country's children – such diversity!" he beams.

And his most negative experience? "There hasn't been any."

Let's tackle the more difficult issues, starting with transformation.

"If you read anything about higher education throughout the world, you would know the transformation of knowledge and education systems is a vexed issue globally. One contested aspect is the choice between differentiation on the one hand and massification (a primary focus on student numbers) on the other. I'm for differentiation."

Isn't that rather elitist?

"Universities are elitist by definition through entry requirements," he settles that point, before continuing: "Other transformation issues include how to meet the demands of the workplace, different financing models, and the like. Stellenbosch's impact on Africa is often underplayed," says De Villiers, and whips out a document confirming that more than a dozen researchers from other African countries will soon attend a conference organised by Prof Linus Opara from Stellenbosch's Faculty of AgriSciences.

But when has an institution been completely transformed?

"Transformation never stops. It's like growth. I don't have all the answers, but there always has to be growth, transformation and progress."

And what is Stellenbosch's relationship like with our minister of higher education and training? Does Dr Blade Nzimande bear a grudge against Maties?

"Shortly after my appointment, I went to see the minister.

**FOR PARENTS WHOSE
CHILDREN WANT TO
WORK OVERSEAS, HE
HAS SIMPLE ADVICE:
ACCEPT IT**

We had a very good conversation and the director-general (Gwebs Qonde, who incidentally previously worked in the wine industry) came to my office here in Stellenbosch out of his own accord.

"Stability and quality are important to them, especially because a lot of South African universities struggle with exactly that. I want to diversify Stellenbosch so that by 2020, 50% of our students are black (the current number is 38%). We're building the skills pipeline our country requires!"

The languages issue

And what is the status of that other hardy annual always bugging every Matie – the will of the university's chief benefactor Jan Marais, which stated that Afrikaans must forever have "no lesser place" than English at Stellenbosch?

"Times change. It was a different regime. English is currently the world's leading academic language. And this, too, constantly changes. Three hundred years ago it was Latin. In the 19th century it was French, at the start of the 20th century it was German. Now it is English. Maybe in fifty years' time it will be Mandarin."

What about Afrikaans, then?

"Stellenbosch University has always lectured in Afrikaans and English and marked papers in both languages. Currently, we want to implement and finance a policy of equal status which leaves no-one excluded and which doesn't impact negatively on anyone.

"I find it strange that it is seen as a university's duty to promote a language. You'd think that responsibility falls to parents," says the man whose son, Braam, was something of a phenomenon when he studied at Stellenbosch years ago, a fluent Afrikaans-speaking American living in Wilgenhof.

"I don't have all the answers about the preservation of Afrikaans' higher-order language functions. The university contributes R150 000 to a new prize of R500 000 for the best research done in Afrikaans, and we also include R150 000 in the budget for the best research in isiXhosa. We'll see how it works out. Currently, very little research is done in Afrikaans."

How does Prof Wim feel about Open Stellenbosch? "I'm in favour of student activism. Members of Open Stellenbosch might be surprised to learn that I was part of a group called 'Stellenbosch moet oop!' (Stellenbosch must open up!) during my student years. It died out, maybe due to the absence of social media!

"When I was on the SRC, I was one of four so-called left-wing students on a council of 13. Six coloured students were allowed entry to Stellenbosch in 1978, my first year. It had an important impact.

"Student activism is a good thing. It focuses our attention on the challenges ahead. Protest has to go hand in hand with respect

and tolerance, in the spirit of an open conversation without borders.

"This achieves more than mass meetings.

"One thing is for sure: it's much easier to change the student profile than the profile of academic staff. It's much more difficult to diversify the academic staff profile because of security of academic tenure, among other reasons."

What will be his benchmark for his eventual success as rector?

"I stand on the shoulders of giants, like my predecessor, Prof Russel Botman. More postgraduate students, stronger research outputs and more international respect for Stellenbosch as a global player. More social impact, like the legal aid clinic, which recently scored a massive victory for the poor against emoluments attachment orders, also known as garnishee orders, in the Cape High Court.


Our interview has run its course. The next appointment waits for the man entrusted to steer the university we love.

• *Jan-Jan Joubert studied journalism at Stellenbosch and heads the Sunday Times' parliamentary bureau.*

I STAND ON THE
SHOULDERS OF
GIANTS, LIKE MY
PREDECESSOR,
PROF RUSSEL
BOTMAN



Prof Wim de Villiers in his office in Admin B in Victoria Street.



The new home of the Nedbank LaunchLab: an old woodwork workshop that was renovated into working spaces for entrepreneurs.

SPACES OF THE FUTURE

New building projects abound at Stellenbosch University (SU). In 2015 the “greenest” building on campus was built, and new spaces for work and accommodation for staff and students are nothing less than innovate and modern.

By **FRIEDA LE ROUX**

What used to be a woodwork workshop is now one of Maties’ newest and most innovative environments. The Nedbank LaunchLab, close to the Faculty of Engineering and right next to the new IT building, aims to help students – and lecturers – to commercialise their intellectual property.

Philip Marais, executive officer, says a lot of students and lecturers come up with clever ideas which deserve a wider audience. The idea, therefore, is to promote entrepreneurship on campus. These new businesses range from information technology to food and drinks establishments.

The funding for the redevelopment of the building comes from the Department of Trade and Industry, with Nedbank as private partner. “We looked at other, similar environments in our research, including that at Oxford and Leeds,” says Marais.

Upon arrival one is greeted by a large coffee shop – the entrepreneur’s thinking space! – as well as an open plan area with approximately 70 seats, and a further 18 offices situated around different-sized meeting spaces. Students can “buy” a seat, and in this way get access to the laboratory and the facilities it offers. The building also offers Wi-Fi and storage space for bicycles.

Marais says their goal – the full-time staff is five – is to help students to develop an idea into a sound business model.

Next to the LaunchLab, the new Information Technology building opened its doors in September 2015 – officially the “greenest”, most eco-friendly building on campus.

This sought-after status is determined by the Green Building Council of South Africa’s Green Star Office criteria for green

buildings. Among other things, the IT building boasts energy efficiency and renewable energy, as well as indoor environment quality (IEQ).

The new building features large open plan working areas – much like the interesting working spaces of companies such as Google and Apple in America. Space for colleagues to meet and break-away rooms will be balanced between shared and private areas. Digital communication facilities in these areas will make virtual meetings easy.

It is not only staff work spaces on campus that are begin redesigned; the nature of teaching in our age requires that

students also work in spaces outside the lecture hall where they have to meet and discuss work as if they are already in the professional working environment.

At the end of 2015, building also started on the new student study centre and cafeteria for the Faculty of Engineering. The existing parking area will be redeveloped to house the new facilities.

This new development is not quite “planned for”, and is the result of needs among the students that were highlighted once the new engineering library was taken into use.

It became clear that the new work stations were very popular with students and they asked for more, similar spaces.

**THE NEW BUILDING
FEATURES LARGE
OPEN PLAN WORKING
AREAS – MUCH LIKE THE
INTERESTING WORKING
SPACES OF COMPANIES
SUCH AS GOOGLE AND
APPLE IN AMERICA**



The modern cafeteria of Russel Botman House where students can purchase meals.

THE RESIDENCE WAS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE A NEW LIVING AND LEARNING COMMUNITY FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE EITHER IN THEIR FINAL YEAR OR DOING POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

According to the Faculty of Engineering's faculty manager, Enzo D'Aguanno, the new study centre will have various spaces where students can work on their own, in silence, or where they can get together as a group, as the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) outcomes require from engineering students.

Apart from a card-managed entry system that will enhance security, students can in future also make use of lockers (with power supply) and Wi-Fi in both the cafeteria and study centre.

"The study centre will consist of eight group workrooms with six to ten seats each, an Information Systems Research (ISR) office,

approximately 80 individual work stations as well as an informal sitting area for 24 people. There will be a number of computer terminals.

"The bigger and more effective cafeteria will have seating for approximately 190 people as well as semi-partitioned cubicles where students can eat and at the same time carry on with group work. The serving area will be considerably larger than the existing one. We are even considering lengthening the hours in which food is sold to include afterhours and Saturdays," says D'Aguanno.

This is only the beginning of a lot of work to be done at Engineering. The building which IT occupied will be renovated and transferred back to Engineering. New lecture halls will be built and the entire Engineering building complex, nearly 45 years old, will be renovated over the next few years.

communal areas for groups of ten students, including a communal kitchen where they can enjoy meals together.

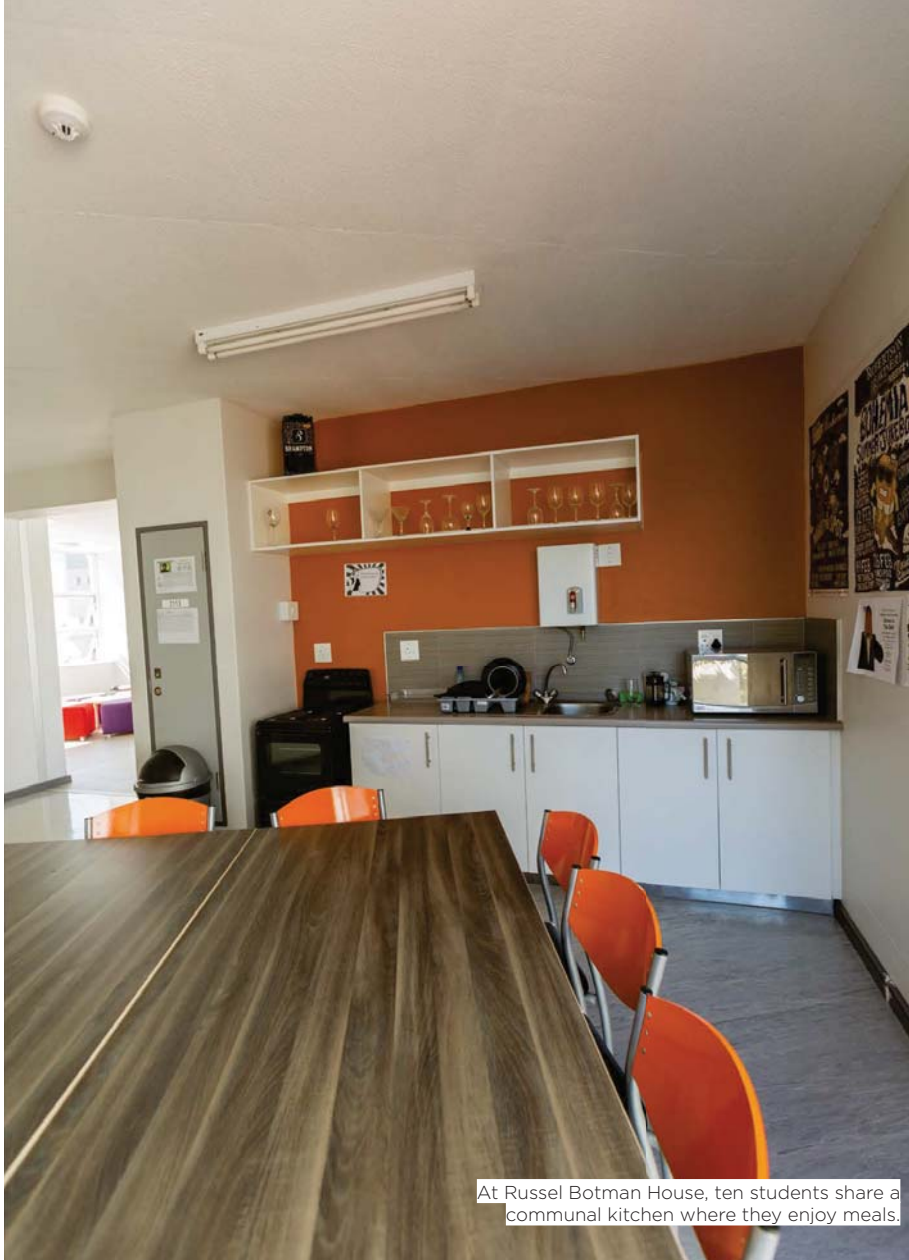
The LLL houses – Listen, Live and Learn – are not completely rid of paint brush and hammer yet. This residence in Victoria Street is currently made up of 27 houses of which 12 are freestanding and 15 are townhouses. The construction of the 15 townhouses was completed at the beginning of 2014 and each house accommodates eight students.

The freestanding houses will be renovated one by one in order to make them more comfortable and suite the needs of students.

Each house will also be remodelled in such a way as to increase the number of beds to eight per house. This gives LLL a current capacity of between 180 and 200 students.

Change never stops, and to stay abreast of trends, SU makes sure it is innovative when it comes to the design of work and study spaces on campus.

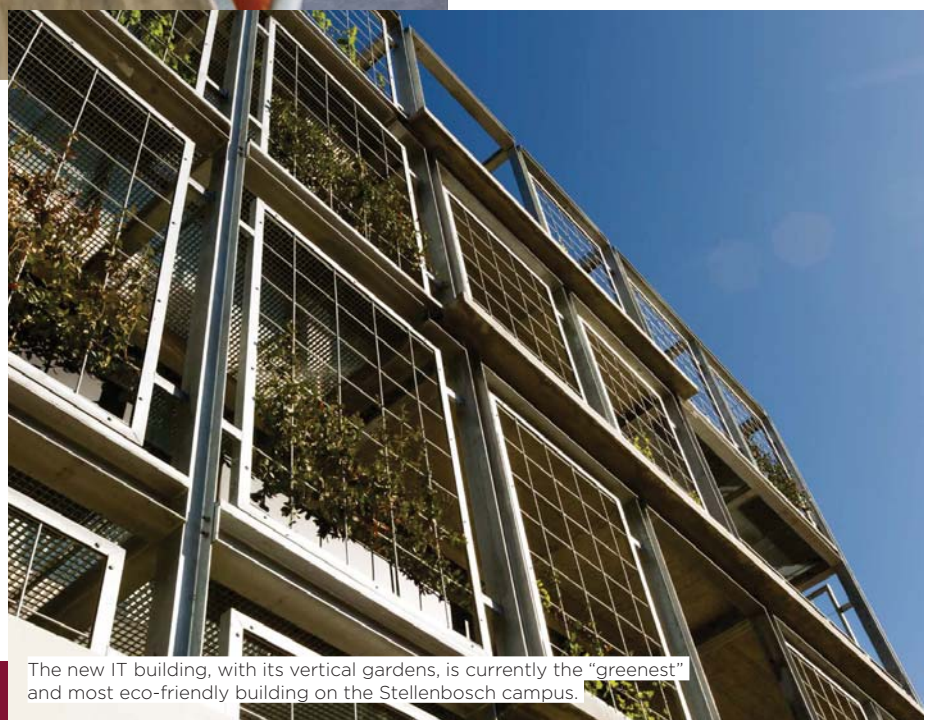
• *Frieda le Roux is a freelance journalist who studied journalism at SU.*



At Russel Botman House, ten students share a communal kitchen where they enjoy meals.

Accommodation facilities on campus are also growing. Russel Botman House is the newly built senior residence at SU. This residence in Marais Street opened its doors in January 2014 and accommodates 252 students.

The residence was designed to provide a new living and learning community for senior students who are either in their final year or doing postgraduate studies. This gender-inclusive residence sees community as the tool for real social integration amongst its residents and was designed to facilitate this through



The new IT building, with its vertical gardens, is currently the "greenest" and most eco-friendly building on the Stellenbosch campus.



PIONEERS AT WORK

A medical team of Stellenbosch University (SU), led by Prof André van der Merwe of the Division Urology, made world news after performing the world's first successful penis transplant.

By **WILMA STASSEN**

News of the world's first successful penis transplant dominated headlines after a team of surgeons from Stellenbosch University (SU) and Tygerberg Hospital made the announcement in March 2015.

For many South Africans, this ground-breaking achievement was not only a feather in the university's cap, but it also became a symbol of pride for their country as news of this success spread around the world.

The marathon nine-hour operation, led by Prof André van der Merwe, head of SU's Division of Urology, was performed on 11 December 2014 at Tygerberg Hospital in Bellville, Cape Town. The 21-year-old recipient's penis had to be amputated three years ago in order to save his life when he developed severe complications after a traditional circumcision.

Van der Merwe was assisted by Prof Frank Graewe, head of SU's Division of Plastic Reconstructive Surgery;

Prof Rafique Moosa, head of the Department of Medicine; transplant coordinators; anaesthetists; theatre nurses; a psychologist; an ethicist; and other support staff.

"This procedure is another excellent example of how medical research, technical know-how and patient-centred care can be combined in the quest to relieve human suffering," says Prof Jimmy Volmink, dean of SU's Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences (FMHS).

"We are proud of the medical team, who also form part of our own staff complement at Tygerberg Hospital," says Dr Beth Engelbrecht, Western Cape head of health. "It is good to know that a young man's life has been significantly changed with this very complex surgical feat."

Even the National Assembly congratulated Tygerberg Hospital and the university during a session in parliament.

The procedure was part of a pilot study to determine whether transplantation was a feasible option for men who lose their penises due to medical causes such as cancer or amputation – it is estimated that up to 250 amputations occur annually in South Africa due to botched circumcisions.

"This is a very serious situation. For a young man of 18 or 19 years the loss of his penis can be deeply traumatic. He doesn't necessarily have the psychological capability to process this. There are even reports of suicide among these young men," says Van der Merwe.

The patient has made a full recovery, has regained all urinary and reproductive function in the transplanted organ and is looking forward to becoming a father. Despite a few post-operative complications, the patient has shown only minor side effects of the immunosuppression treatment that he will have to take for the rest of his life, as is required by all transplant patients.

"Our goal was that he would be fully functional in two years and we are very surprised by his rapid recovery," says Van der Merwe.

In addition to the physical recovery, the patient has also made an emotionally recovery. "The transplant has completely changed his life. Before the operation he was very quiet and withdrawn. Although he is still reserved, he is happy and confident, and very mature for someone his age," Van der Merwe adds.

The planning and preparation for the study started in 2010. After extensive research, Van der Merwe and his surgical team decided to employ some parts of the model and techniques developed for the first facial transplant.

"We used the same type of microscopic surgery to connect small blood vessels and nerves, and the psychological evaluation of patients was also similar. The procedure has to be sustainable and has to work in our environment at Tygerberg," says Van der Merwe.

This procedure could eventually also be extended to men who have lost their penises from penile cancer or as a last-resort treatment for severe erectile dysfunction due to medication side effects.

Nine more patients will receive penile transplants according to the study protocol, and the team is eagerly awaiting the go-ahead from the provincial authorities that has to approve the budget.

"We've done a thorough cost analyses and realised that the transplant was a little more expensive than we initially thought," says Van der Merwe. They administered a higher dose of immunosuppression treatment in the first month after the operation to ensure that the organ was not rejected.

By the second month the treatment and accompanying cost was more than halved, and by month three the medicine costs were similar to standard post-transplant treatment.

"If you look at it from a cost perspective, consider what it means for these men, for the hospital and university and the country, then I think it is worth it," said Van der Merwe.

• Wilma Stassen is a communication officer at the FMHS.

FOR SOUTH AFRICANS, THIS GROUND-BREAKING ACHIEVEMENT BECAME A SYMBOL OF PRIDE FOR THEIR COUNTRY

MAKE A CONTRIBUTION

A fund has been created to raise money to help cover the first month's treatment for the other patients. To make a contribution:

Standard Bank – Local Payments

Account Name:

University of Stellenbosch

Account Number: 07 300 695 5

Branch code: 05 0610

**Payment reference:
cost centre 55373**

First National Bank – Foreign Payments

Account Name:

University of Stellenbosch

Account Number: 62116972416

Branch code: 204-109

**Payment reference:
cost centre 55373**



THE FUTURE IS NOW

The SU/KU Leuven ThinkTank allows students from north and south to address issues which have an impact on their future and that of the world around them.

By **AMANDA TONGHA**

“On a bicycle you understand a city’s rhythm. You’re not allowed on the pavement, nor are you fully protected in the street. But, you’re not constrained like cars are to fixed lanes. Instead, you sort of flow through a city. You have a very, very intimate relationship with space amongst all the cars and pedestrians and buildings.”

An avid cyclist, Michael Struwig (photo left) loves going for rides through the city. Perched on his bicycle seat, this Stellenbosch University (SU) student has had some unique experiences on the road giving him an intimate understanding of the city landscape.

This perception fit in well with the objectives of a think tank of SU students and their peers at KU Leuven, Belgium, where across continents they are discussing “The future of the city”. Imagining a world decades from now, students are encouraged to think about the spaces they inhabit and what a future world might look like.

For Struwig, a Master’s student in Electrical and Electronic Engineering, being part of the think tank provides an opportunity to “craft a better, smarter future”.

“This is a tremendous opportunity to work with and discuss big ideas with other big-idea people.”

The last seven months he and 15 fellow Matie students held discussions with Belgium counterparts interacting through platforms like blogs, Facebook and Skype. They also participated in monthly seminars on the SU campus, where invited speakers covered a range of topics exposing them to different disciplines. In November they will visit Belgium to meet face-to-face with the KU Leuven group.

“The entire programme is unique. It has never been done with a partner university,” says Huba Boshoff, coordinator of key international partnerships at the Postgraduate and International Office (PGIO).

The think tank is a joint project between the PGIO, Frederik Van Zyl Slabbert Institute (FVZS Institute) and Division for Student Affairs. Johan Fourie, senior lecturer from the Department of Economics, will lead the think tank’s academic programme.

Boshoff says the think tank brings together students from different cultural contexts and promotes cooperation on a student level. It also brings together students from different disciplines.

Representing KU Leuven, Yves Bawin, a Master’s student in Biology, says it’s fascinating that students with all kinds of interests can

come together and exchange thoughts and ideas about a future world. Assigned to a group of seven students (four from KU Leuven and three from SU), Bawin is part of the group which held conversations about a sustainable city.

“I am very enthusiastic about this sub-theme because I believe sustainability is one of the greatest challenges for future cities. As a biology student, I am especially wondering about the future impact of people on nature and how to keep our impact low,” says Bawin.

“It is not only essential to be concerned with the welfare of humans in the city of the future. I believe that humans have a responsibility towards all other creatures on earth. Therefore it is important to design the city of the future not only with respect to the inhabitants.”

Bawin’s sentiments are shared by fellow KU Leuven student,

Frederick van Gestel, a fourth-year medicine student. “We should take care of the earth we got and make sure we make some progress while doing so. Cities, being

one of the smaller parts this earth is composed of, are essential to achieve these goals. If the smallest parts all act alike – in a progressive, yet sustainable manner – the bigger parts will automatically follow the example.”

Van Gestel says he looks forward to meet the SU-students in real life instead of on a computer screen. “It looks like they are a group of great people and every encounter is an added value to the overall experience. I hope I can show them around a bit and that they will have a great time.”

One of those he will show around is Rebecca Matsie (photo left), an honours Sociology student from Stellenbosch. She says interacting with the KU Leuven students has been an enriching experience, stretching her thinking beyond her discipline, challenging her to think about the current state of cities.

“The future is inevitable. We cannot change the past and we are in the present, but the future, however far or near it may be, can be planned for. Even though planning for the future city might not affect us, it carries our legacy.”

• *Amanda Tongha studied journalism at SU and is currently the communication and liaison officer at the PGIO.*

**WE CANNOT CHANGE
THE PAST AND WE
ARE IN THE PRESENT,
BUT THE FUTURE,
HOWEVER FAR OR
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BE PLANNED FOR**



AFRICA IN 2020

The USB-ED is gearing itself to provide greater support and make a larger impact on the sustainable economic growth and social development needs in Africa.

By **FRIK LANDMAN**

Africa is the richest natural resource-endowed continent. Africa is also the poorest continent (visit www.Worldmapper.org for a tour). Its wealth and its potential wealth currently seem to be serving exclusion rather than inclusion (maybe Piketty has it right).

Our people in several regions suffer from a system of connected wicked problems (*problématique*) such as unemployment, pitiable skills, dismal incomes, scanty housing, extraordinary crime environments, bad health and the consequences of the rent-seeking behaviour of so many "leaders". Africa, and in particular sub-Saharan Africa, has abundant natural resources and a young population and it needs to find a way to turn this potential into sustainable wealth for the continent. It finds itself in a time of radical global changes, of demanding environmental strains as well as challenging economic conditions.

In 2001, Stellenbosch University (SU) founded a company called USB Executive Development Ltd (USB-ED). It was instituted as a company with SU as major shareholder at a time when such an act was out of kilter with the business school thinking of the day. The pioneering founders were thought leaders who wanted to ensure a sustainable future for the University of Stellenbosch Business School (USB) and had no proof of concept other than their belief in this innovative and daring act of separating the executive education from the business school.

Although the prime drive was to create an additional income stream, this entity also has in its DNA to impact the African society through the systemic lever of management development. Using the latter as a main strategy to contribute to economic competitiveness, it makes a serious effort to combat social exclusion.

The company grew in purpose and impact from a meagre blip on the international radar screen to being the number 1 of its kind in South Africa and the rest of Africa (PMR ratings) for the past five years and to become a global Top 100 (from about 7 000 worldwide) provider of management development on the London *Financial Times* ratings.

The seeds of USB-ED's entrepreneurial culture were planted in its conceptual phase and it generated an organisational life of continuous innovation to ensure sustainability in the absence of funding, grants or any other subsidised existence. A tradition unfolded of being and remaining relevant and focused on praxis, developing learning interventions inspired by the needs of the real world.

Other than SU, the company focuses

mostly on the adult, working market. Its 130 faculty members (formed in a virtual pool of carefully recruited and academically sound practitioners) facilitate uniquely designed learning interventions across all

THE WAY FORWARD IS
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industries in the private sector, the public sector, as well as entities in civil society (NPOs etc.) in about 13 African countries.

An outstanding characteristic of USB-ED is its responsiveness to real market needs and its ability to integrate academic quality with real back-at-work application. These interventions are bespoke in nature and take months to design and agreed upon with the client.

The basic philosophy and approach is to go to a country, a company or client with a "clean sheet of paper, a pair of ears and a pen" and through a diligent analysis determine the nature, content and process of the intervention. These learning interventions are designed to run over a period of six to twelve months with feedback loops in between and a year-on follow up to ensure the learning is well vested in the individual and the organisation.

Although the company has its own brand it flies under the colours of the university. The brand message signals it is from Africa, that its story is interdependently tied to that of Stellenbosch University, it is simultaneously writing its own story based on the script of its vision and mission; it is a responsible citizen of Africa who has relinquished all forms of mediocrity and it is pursuing the best in all it says and does; it is not only about teaching but about doing, practicing as well as becoming what it is teaching.

The way forward is that management schools across the world face many challenges that require the removal of traditional thought scaffolding. Even so, the response to these challenges is contextual.

The vast ocean of development needs in Africa and other emerging economies demand aspirational approaches and scaling strategies to embrace this challenge. Although transacting mostly in Africa, USB-ED is required to be globally relevant and to be able to measure its impact (economic, social and environmental) regarding management development against global criteria.

USB-ED will add to its current competencies, investment in sound applied research and scholarship that will generate knowledge upon which one can act. It will also leverage its collaborating partners, the USB, School of Public Leadership (SPL), and Institute for Futures Research (IFR), in ways that will ensure the inclusion and consideration of tomorrow's society and tomorrow's organisation and leader.

To gain momentum and have an impact on the sustainable economic growth and social development needs of Africa the brand and the capabilities are put to use to focus on this aspirational and expansive growth strategy. The development of managers and leaders is a key driver of economic competitiveness in Africa and to gain momentum on their development requires a different approach and speed to market.

By 2020, USB Executive Development will find itself operating in five regions, 17 countries and 19 African cities serving about 25 000 leaders per year.

• *Frik Landman is CEO of USB Executive Development Ltd (USB-ED)*



The Visit@Tygerberg initiative convinced this group of medical students to study at SU. Standing, from the back, left, are Astrid Kuppan-Luke, Bandile Msimanga, Mbali Gumede and Alex Menu; sitting, in front, are Nonopha Nukuna, Cassandra Goba, Abidemi Alawiye, Carlota Sekhokoane and Farah Fredericks, coordinator: student recruitment and support at the FMHS.

ACCESS WITH SUCCESS

Transformation and student success are two of the many challenges facing South African universities. But Stellenbosch University (SU) is addressing both through various initiatives – Visit@Tygerberg being one of these.

By **MANDI BARNARD**

Student success is central to just about everything that Stellenbosch University (SU) does, and the university boasts one of the highest undergraduate pass rates in the country. At the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences (FMHS) more than 90% of all undergraduate students successfully complete their studies.

The FMHS has over the years implemented various initiatives to address the challenges of increasing diversity in a sustainable manner. This year, the number of first-year black, coloured and Indian (BCI)

students who registered for the MB,ChB programme is 144 of a total of 235 students, an increase of 10% over the past five years.

One of the initiatives, the Visit@Tygerberg, has been integral to the retention and eventual registration of BCI students.

The programme was established in 2004 with the aim to orientate students to the Tygerberg campus. In the first year, only 29 BCI students were selected to study medicine at the faculty and invited to the visit. From this group, 12 students registered to study at SU in 2005.

The recruitment and selection of BCI students have grown exponentially over the past 12 years, with well over 112 BCI students registering at the faculty in 2014.

Visit@Tygerberg is an annual recruitment initiative that takes place during the third-term school holidays. "It aims to give these students an opportunity to experience what the faculty has to offer to its students at the Tygerberg campus," says Farah Fredericks, coordinator: student recruitment and support at the faculty.

Prospective students are exposed to learning facilities like the Clinical

Skills Centre and Morphology Museum, extra-curricular on-campus activities, information sessions on student support and degree content. They are also given an opportunity to engage with SU students and staff first-hand.

Visit@Tygerberg has developed into a strategic programme for the FHMS and SU which is aligned to the SU's Recruitment Bursary Project. Fredericks explains that a student should be selected for a mainstream programme in the faculty and must also meet the recruitment bursary requirements in order to receive an invitation.

According to her the programme has been used as a vehicle to dispel various negative perceptions about the university and in particular the Tygerberg campus.

"It allows students to engage with other prospective and current students who come from similar schools, cultures and backgrounds before making a decision to study at SU and to familiarise themselves with the faculty environment," she says.

As a part of the programme the group takes part in an open discussion on their attitudes towards SU which gives the organisers

a lot of insight into possible barriers and negative perceptions students have about SU. Senior students in the faculty attend this session to share their experiences at SU and Tygerberg campus.

Fredericks, who has coordinated the visit since 2010, notes that "the faculty has not only seen growth in the number of BCI students in recent years, but we see these students actively engaging in leadership and extra-curricular activities on campus, while maintaining a good academic record".

"This is encouraging; the programme not only promotes access with success, but it allows students to engage with student life actively. Tygerberg really becomes a home away from home," says Fredericks.

• *Mandi Barnard is FMHS's marketing coordinator.*

**THIS IS ENCOURAGING;
THE PROGRAMME
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FROM HOME**

FEEDBACK FROM STUDENTS



Pamela Mahada,
fourth-year
Occupational
Therapy student
– Visit 2011

My friends and I always used to

joke about Stellenbosch University. I always thought that you only get accepted to study at the university if your surname is "Van der Merwe" or "Van Schalkwyk". Despite being warned about the university by my parents I still went on and decided to apply just to see what would happen.

When I was invited to the visit, I was curious more than anything to see this university that I had joked about all year long. The three days that I spent on the visit changed my perception about the university and erased all the doubts that I had about it.

The love and warmth that I received from everyone made me realise that if I decided to come study at SU, I would not only be in one of the best universities in the country, but that I'd also have a family away from home.



Siviwe Mila,
sixth-year MB,ChB
student – Visit 2009

After being robbed just before the open day of another university,

I was disappointed in the treatment I got from them. Coming to Tygerberg for those few days in September 2009 was one of the best decisions I have ever made.

I was picked up by a friendly lady who ended up being one of my many moms in Cape Town. The staff at SU's FMHS has been friendly

and helpful throughout these six years. At this campus I have made relationships that will last a lifetime.



Leago Mnguni,
first-year MB,ChB
student – Visit 2014

I never knew much about Stellenbosch University. It

was never a possibility in my mind. Coming from Gauteng, I only thought of a minute number of universities that I could seriously go to.

But the camp changed all of that very quickly. It brought to my attention what Stellenbosch really was.

It was not the ugly step-sister of UCT. It was home. It is currently home.

Tygerberg proved that you can form close bonds with people even though you are in a very competitive field.



Dr Gillian Arendse, specialist advisor for student recruitment at SU.

THINKING SMART

The competitive environment in higher education requires that universities constantly find innovative strategies and actions to recruit top achieving students.

By **CHRISTELLE FEYT**

To recruit the best candidates from a limited pool of potential students requires purposeful student recruitment action. Of the total number of matriculants who wrote the National Senior Certificate examinations at the end of 2014, only 28% qualified to apply for graduate studies at university.

From this cohort of learners, 25 public universities and a myriad of private higher education institutions had to recruit

sufficient students to achieve their 2015 enrolment targets.

For this very reason, universities are increasingly resorting to corporate marketing principles to ensure the preferred composition of a pool of applications and admissions. In addition, universities are making every

effort to effectively market their distinctive characteristics that set them apart from the rest of the competitors in higher education.

Enormous sums of money are spent on advertising and recruitment campaigns to achieve these goals.

Universities evidently cannot undertake their marketing on an ad hoc basis anymore. Although prospective students worldwide regard the reputation of an institution as the most defining factor when it comes to selecting a tertiary institution for their studies, the so-called "Ivy League" universities can no longer rely solely on their brand names to guarantee them an influx of top students.

The competitive environment necessitates well thought-out and focused strategies – coupled with institutional-wide marketing and recruitment actions. At Stellenbosch University (SU), faculties as specialist experts in the various fields of study have become primary marketing and student recruitment partners not only in terms of chasing enrolment targets, but also in terms of positioning SU as the preferred choice for university study.

Building a meaningful and lasting

**UNIVERSITIES
EVIDENTLY CANNOT
UNDERTAKE THEIR
MARKETING ON
AN AD HOC BASIS**

relationship with the client base is a prerequisite for marketing strategies in the corporate and higher education fields to succeed. A student's final choice of university or field of study is not merely a transaction.

Where universities invest in school communities by providing innovative development opportunities for both learners and teachers, and constantly meeting the demand for relevant and accurate information, there is evidence of continuous growth in loyalty to the university brand name.

The SU community interaction and schools outreach programmes introduced by internal partners such as the Division of Social Impact and the SU Centre for Pedagogy (SUNCEP), together with faculty initiatives such as the Visit@Maties campus visits and winter schools, contribute significantly to attract prospective students to Maties.

In a South African study, an overwhelming majority of learners indicated that they already want to start associating themselves with their university of choice during their school years. That creates an excellent opportunity for universities to turn a potentially loyal learner into a sure choice.

The Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences recently established a student ambassador's

programme that uses trained students as advisors and mentors to support provisionally admitted students during their matric year in preparation for their studies at SU. This allows learners to become part of the student community early on.

This project is also in keeping with a large-scale Maties loyalty programme planned by the Centre for Student Recruitment. The purpose of the programme is to start investing in a diverse group of would-be Maties as early as Grade 9.

Worldwide there is a sharpened focus on so-called diversity recruitment to guarantee that student communities reflect the demography of the broader communities from which students are drawn. SU strives for an enrolment demography of newcomer first-year students by 2018 of 50% white and 50% black, coloured and Indian (BCI) students.

SU has made a decision to create a specialist post within student recruitment that will focus specifically on relationship marketing in terms of target markets within the basic education environment, as well as enhanced recruitment strategies to attract BCI students to SU.

Dr Gillian Arendse, former head of the Centre for Mentor Tutor Leadership (MTL) Development within Student Affairs, was appointed

specialist advisor to this post. He has a thorough understanding of the experiences of students and prospective students given his involvement in marketing and developing science over the past 20 years or so.

To stay in touch with the market of prospective students, SU uses the candidates' preferred channels of communication, including electronic technology such as social media platforms, email, websites, podcasts and promotional videos. The Contact and Client Service Centre assists with this task.

Although traditional marketing activities will continue to play a valuable role in student recruitment, it is to be expected that Stellenbosch University will increasingly include relationship-oriented practices in the marketing mix used to recruit students.

To be able to reflect the entire student recruitment cycle within an institutional client relationship management (CRM) system would seem to be the most favourable strategy. This means high-quality client data could be captured via information technology throughout the student life cycle in order to establish and maintain a mutually beneficial relationship.

• *Christelle Feyt is SU's senior director: prospective students.*

TOP 10 RECRUITMENT STRATEGIES AND ACTIVITIES

The higher education consultancy service Ruffalo Noel Levitz in the United States annually undertakes trends analyses and market research associated with higher education marketing, student recruitment, enrolment management, and student retention. In its latest research on the most effective student recruitment strategies, respondents at the 263 higher education institutions that took part in the research identified 10 tactics in order of importance:

- 1 - Open days on campus and in faculties
- 2 - Campus visits for high school learners
- 3 - Electronic application facilities
- 4 - Weekend visits to campus and faculties
- 5 - Electronic scheduling of campus visits via website
- 6 - Articulation of qualifications between what is offered at university and college
- 7 - Campus visits for career counsellors and guidance teachers
- 8 - Using enrolled students as student recruiters
- 9 - Providing transport for campus visits (payment included)
- 10 - Information sessions for learners and/or their parents at schools and in suitable public spaces

Source: Noel Levitz Report 2013, Marketing and Student Recruitment Practices Benchmark Report



DRIVING **RESEARCH** FOR SOCIETY

One of SU's key strategic priorities is to do research which has an impact on society. As part of his new position, Mawethu Nyakatya will make sure communities and Stellenbosch University (SU) take hands to address societal issues.

By **JOANNE WILLIAMS** and **PIA NÄNNY**

With one eye on the Division of Research Development and the other on the Division of Social Impact, Mawethu Nyakatya is a matchmaker: He facilitates the interaction between researchers at Stellenbosch University and community members who have identified certain research questions.

Nyakatya's role involves establishing new and fostering existing partnerships between the university and external social partners, such as government, business, and civil society, as well as identifying community research opportunities and linking these with the university's research expertise.

"SU has a world-class research and development system which has produced a number of distinguished researchers and ensured quality research outputs in the form of research papers and products. This output has enriched the world of science and the global community," says Nyakatya.

"However, the university strives to be locally relevant and local communities should have the benefit of SU's research capabilities to address pressing challenges facing them. Hence, additional attention is being given to the university's ability to respond to research opportunities in the surrounding communities."

In this regard, SU established the position of manager: community-based research within the Division of Social Impact. This role supports community-university research partnerships which aim to empower local people to shape the future of their communities. Nyakatya, who previously held the position of coordinator: research partnerships and communication in the Division of Research Development, was the perfect fit.

He is currently managing the project of creating an online tool where community members can enter their needs and where researchers can look for possible research opportunities.

"Everyone benefits. The research will be useful to the communities while it creates opportunities for student training and the gathering of information that could lead to the publication of articles. It also

gives students the chance to apply their knowledge in real-life situations."

Examples of this include the Department of History assisting residents of Kayamandi with writing their own history. Another example is the Water Institute's involvement in a water project in the Hessequa Municipality.

"SU doesn't give financial support to projects, but it can offer support in the form of knowledge-sharing. Collaborative research between universities and local communities has been proven to improve decision-making, create a shared sense of ownership and belonging, and ultimately strengthen the socio-economic vibrancy of communities.

"Furthermore, universities as public institutions have a three-pronged reason to exist namely teaching and learning, research, and community interaction. And the best way for a university to engage civil society is on the basis of its teaching and learning, and research expertise (engaged scholarship)," Nyakatya says.

Until the online tool is available, a database of community research opportunities (follow the links on www.sun.ac.za/ci) has been developed and is available on the university website as a resource for academics and students who wish to pursue research that responds to challenges as identified and experienced by SU's neighbouring communities.

This database is adapted continuously to reflect the research interests of the university and those of external communities.

• *Joanne Williams works for SU's Division of Social Impact. Pia Nanny is a freelance journalist who studied at SU.*

**SU HAS A WORLD-
CLASS RESEARCH
AND DEVELOPMENT
SYSTEM WHICH
HAS PRODUCED
A NUMBER OF
DISTINGUISHED
RESEARCHERS**

RESILIENT LIKE SPIDER WEBS

African university networks should be like spider webs in rainstorms. Resilient. That is the premise for the work and world view of Periperi U, an African disaster risk reduction network of which Stellenbosch University (SU) is the secretariat.

By **CHRISTOPHER MULLER**

For Periperi U, the strength and resilience of African networks lie not in checking the chink in the armour, or the weakest link in the chain, but in understanding the tensile strength in each strand of a simple spider web.

On a continent that faces challenges of food security, armed conflicts, extreme weather and public health emergencies, Periperi U brings alive the value of engaged, pan-African risk scholarship. This energetic partnership

of African universities seeks to build locally relevant disaster risk related capacity, and to promote scholarship on disaster risk. The rapidly emerging cross-disciplinary field recognises that recurrent disasters not only undermine livelihoods across the continent, but

also Africa's prospects for progress.

In 2006, when the five founding Periperi U members proposed a university partnership to advance disaster risk scholarship in Africa, their goals were seen as ambitious and unrealistic. Many viewed this domain as the primary focus of the United Nations, governments and aid agencies. African universities had a non-existent footprint.

Universities as the drivers of innovation should be crucial players in this field, in advancing proactive

approaches to reducing risk and on managing disasters when they do happen. For example, following the launch of the Millennium Development Goals in 2005, we have seen an array of academic programmes emerge in Sustainable Development, Urbanisation Studies and Climate Change. Yet, since 2005, the occurrence of market and informal settlement fires in Africa, along with communicable disease outbreaks and losses due to flash floods call for a much sharper scholarly focus on risk and resilience.

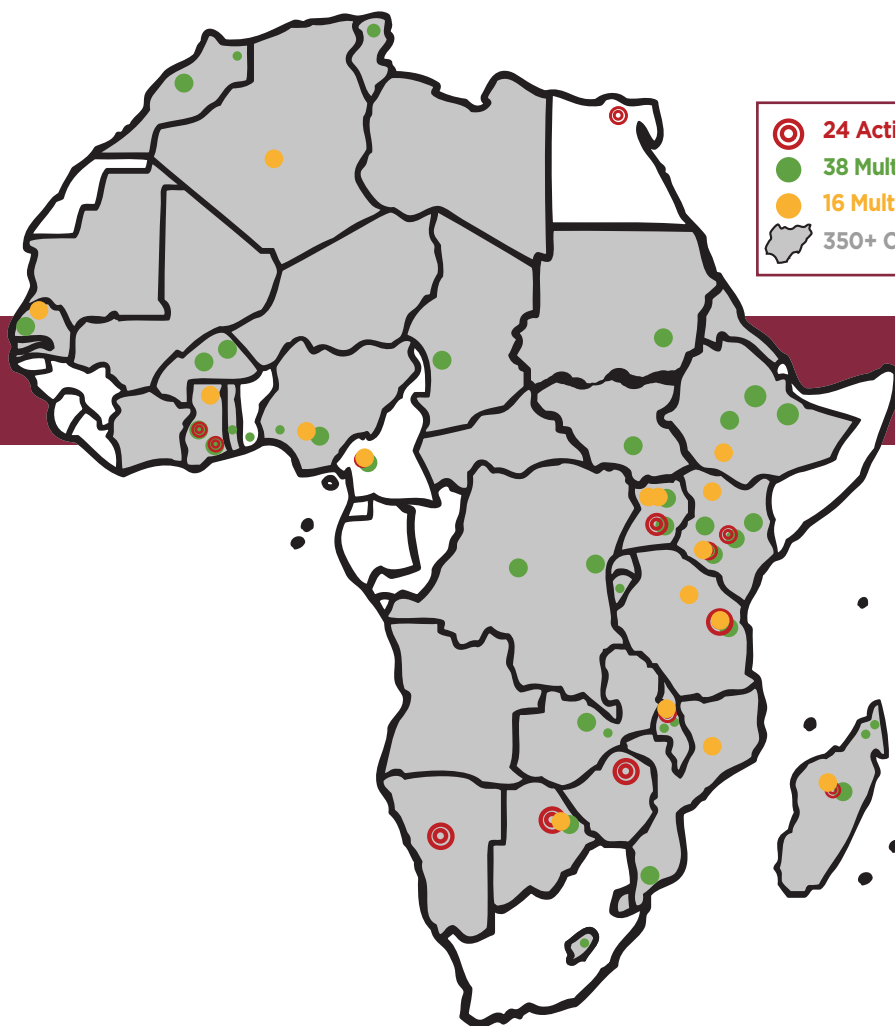
Higher education institutions do not lightly embark on new academic initiatives. The inclusion of an explicit risk perspective within an existing field, or the introduction of a cross-disciplinary disaster risk management degree always involves institutional adjustments. The disaster risk domain is complex, requiring an understanding and integration of various disciplines, and instruction that must be informed by local risk profiles, national policies and international frameworks.

The Periperi U network has risen to this challenge. To date, the partnership has introduced 18 applied academic programmes that now graduate urgently needed local disaster risk reduction professionals and scientists.

The courses are offered in no less than eight languages, bridging language divides and disciplinary boundaries. According to Dr Ailsa Holloway, Periperi U coordinator, the introduction of new cross-disciplinary disaster risk academic programmes in so many countries was no easy task.

"Makerere University in Uganda, one of the partners, successfully introduced its Master's

**TO DATE, THE
PARTNERSHIP HAS
INTRODUCED 18
APPLIED ACADEMIC
PROGRAMMES**



- ◎ 24 Active African Bilateral Partnerships
- 38 Multilateral Partners through Intra-ACP Networks
- 16 Multilateral Partners through PANGeA, Periperi U
- 350+ Collaborations on the continent

of Public Health in Disaster Management in 2014 after five years of vigorous institutional advocacy.”

The developmental benefits of engaging African universities

in disaster risk reduction are evident across the partnership. Stellenbosch University’s Disaster Risk Studies and Development module requires students to conduct a community risk assessment in an at-risk settlement.

The University of Antananarivo has run disaster risk management short courses in Madagascar since 2010, with more than 275 people from 2010 to 2014 attending these 7-day sessions. The University of Ghana’s courses also reach practitioners from many civil society groupings and development NGOs to local authorities and UN agencies.

Today, ten years after the launch of the Millennium Development Goals, Periperi U has successfully

challenged earlier preconceptions about African university capacity in this field. The partnership’s stature globally was underlined in 2014 when it was recognised as an International Centre of Excellence for Risk Education and Learning by the Integrated Research on Disaster Risk Programme. This foregrounds its disaster risk leadership and excellence in Africa and the world.

Practically, Periperi U’s global engagement has already been reflected in world-class debates, including the partnership’s engagement at the Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, held in Sendai, Japan in March 2015. The role of African universities in advancing disaster risk scholarship and local capacity to manage risks became clear globally when PeriperiU led a significant side event within the official UN programme.

Such achievements have been enabled by the energy and commitment of the partner universities. These have been underwritten by the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance of USAID, which has served as the main source of funding since 2006. But this rising demand for disaster risk academic programmes also constitutes a new opportunity for funding partners – an innovative platform to engage with a bold initiative that is transforming African capacity to manage its risks and disasters.

• *Christopher Muller is an SU alumnus and currently coordinator of the Africa academic networks at SU’s Postgraduate and International Office.*

WHAT IS PERIPERI U?

Periperi U (Partners Enhancing Resilience for People Exposed to Risk) is an African-rooted and -led university partnership with the secretariat at SU. The eleven partner universities are located in Algeria, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania and Uganda. Dr Ailsa Holloway is one of the founding members and the coordinator. Visit www.riskreductionafrica.org, send email to ailsaholloway@sun.ac.za, or phone +27 (0)21 808 9281.



SUSTAINABLE TO THE CORE

Sustainability is not merely a buzzword at Stellenbosch University (SU); it is part of our very essence. However, all stakeholders are required to pull together to advance sustainability at SU.

By **BARBARA POOL**

Sustainability forms part of the strategic framework of Stellenbosch University and is imbedded in the *Institutional Intent and Strategy 2013-2018*. This document serves as a basis to position SU in the 21st century, while this position in turn is imbedded in the four strategic focus areas of SU, one of which is systemic sustainability* (the others being student success, diversity, and the SU's knowledge base).

"When we refer to sustainability, we purposefully look at the bigger picture – seeking ways the current generation and future generations can function in a sustainable way," says chief operating officer of SU, Prof Leopoldt van Huyssteen.

"Systemic sustainability is a culture that needs to

be inculcated and this requires a behavioural change. Everyone has a role to play for this to succeed, not only our alumni, current students and staff, but also future students, the community, the business environment, schools, and government organisations."

Ideally, SU alumni should act as role models by sharing with others what they are already doing in their various environments. Most important: to support the university with this cultural change as part of the *Institutional Intent and Strategy*.

To this end, SU not only focuses on financial support, but also on various levels of involvement, such as attending SU events and supporting academic activities.

"There are ample opportunities to contribute to the institution as a whole and to be part of its future,"



says Van Huyssteen.

Every staff member of the university has a role to play in promoting sustainability. Whether in the support services divisions or in the academic environment, much has already been done to inculcate systemic sustainability.

For instance, academic staff members are able to support student development by introducing sustainability as part of the curriculum.

Other opportunities such as topic-specific working groups are created for academic and support services staff to interact so that both groups can think and work together innovatively in the search for solutions.

The challenge SU faces not only involves touching people's hearts so that they would want to get involved, but also to introduce systems and processes throughout the university to make this possible.

Everyone can make a difference, no matter how small, although, naturally, the university wants as many of its staff members as possible

to be involved in this strategic initiative.

When it comes to sustainability, the focus should not only be on the current generation, but also on future generations and affording them the opportunity to live their lives in a sustainable way. SU students are part of this future generation who need to take our country forward. The university accordingly works together closely with student bodies to become more sustainable.

The head of the Frederik Van Zyl Slabbert Institute for Student Leadership Development, Dr Leslie van Rooi, agrees and says SU puts a high priority on developing student leaders.

"The characteristics of these leaders and the impact they have on campus – and will have in the next phase of their lives – are directly linked to development opportunities that take into account the challenges of our day and those of future generations.

"SU subsequently makes an effort to expose its student corps – including its student leaders – to opportunities where they are able to discuss the topic of sustainability and seek solutions, not only on campus, but beyond."

For Van Rooi, SU does not limit its focus on sustainability to its policies and research, but also empowers its students to influence them directly. Hence, students can be part of the implementation processes in a practical way.

Van Huyssteen believes we should all pull together to make a difference.

"All those with past, present and future connections to SU will be able to reap benefits from sustainability as a strategic initiative. More importantly, we will be making a difference to the world around us."

- Read more about sustainability and SU at www.sun.ac.za/sustainability.
- *Barbara Pool is the director: projects at SU.*

THIS IS HOW S.U. ENSURES SUSTAINABILITY

- **Mobility:** Matie bicycles; campus commuting service; lift club webpage
- **Water conservation:** Eco-friendly shower heads; indigenous plants; grey water irrigation
- **Three-drum recycling:** Recyclable material (paper, tins, glass); non-recyclable waste (wet tissues, cling film); food/compost (organic waste)
- **Energy conservation:** Low-energy globes; light sensors; eco-friendly cooling systems
- **Landscape design:** Organic compost; integrated pest control plan; endemic plant species
- **Financial sustainability:** Faultless reporting; budget process management; diversification of revenue sources

*WHAT IS SYSTEMIC SUSTAINABILITY?

Systemic sustainability has a broader focus than a mere balance between the various elements of sustainability, such as ecology, economy and people. The emphasis is on the mutual connection with, interdependence on and influence of all the elements in relation to each other – directly or indirectly, good or bad. The aim is sustainability of the whole entity, not merely parts of it. In this broader context, each division and individual has a role to play, and coordination between divisions, functions and services is of critical importance.



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BANGHOEK. Alleenmandaat. Netjiese eenmanswoonstel met balkon en ingeboude braai in Die Weides teenaan kampus. Modern en sonnig. Goed toegeruste kombuis.

STELLENBOSCH R1 285 000



Slaapkamers 1 Bad 1 WEB 3290500

BERGZICHT PLAZA. Moderne woonstel in stil deel van woonstelblok wat maklik twee persone kan huisves. Geleë regoor US Drama Departement en 100m vanaf Eikestad Mall.

STELLENBOSCH R4 600 000



Slaapkamers 5 Bad 3 WEB 3201576

UNIEPARK. Gedeelte mandaat.

Drie groot onthaalvertrekke met onbelemmerde uitsigte. Twee woonstelle, swembad, drie motorhuise en volop parkeerplek.

STELLENBOSCH R1 995 000



Slaapkamers 2 Bad 2 WEB 3150954

KAMPUS. Alleenmandaat.

Baie netjiese moderne meenthuis teenaan kampus in Eikenbosch. Noordfront onderdak patio en tuin. Motorhuis. Goeie sekuriteit.

STELLENBOSCH R750 000



Slaapkamers 2 Bad 1 WEB 3042920

DIE RAND. Alleenmandaat.

Grondvloer woonstel naby kampus. Gemeenskaplike swembad en braaieriewe in kompleks. 24h sekuriteitswag aan diens.

STELLENBOSCH R1 590 000



Eenmanswoonstel Bad 1 WEB 3295259

QUARTA. Geleë in Victoriastraat regoor Dagbreek Manskoshuis. 42m² noordfront grondvloer eenheid met onderdak parkeerplek. Kom baie selde in die mark.

STELLENBOSCH R4 900 000



Bedrooms 7 Bath 3 WEB 3257882

CENTRAL. Sole mandate.

Stunning location on the banks of the Eerste River. On the doorstep of the US-campus, Coetzenburg and the CBD.

STELLENBOSCH R3 750 000



Slaapkamers 3 Bad 2 WEB 13235900

DIE BOORD. Alleenmandaat.

Geleë in stil deel van Die Boord. Stewig geboude gesinswoning met genoeg ruimte vir kinders om te speel. Studeerkamer, dubbelmotorhuis.

STELLENBOSCH R1 295 000



Eenmanswoonstel Bad 1 WEB 3160721

AMADEUS. Alleenmandaat.

Moderne woonstel op kampus in Hofmeyrstraat oorkant Lydia dameskoshuis. Uitsers gewild vanweë uitsonderlike ligging.

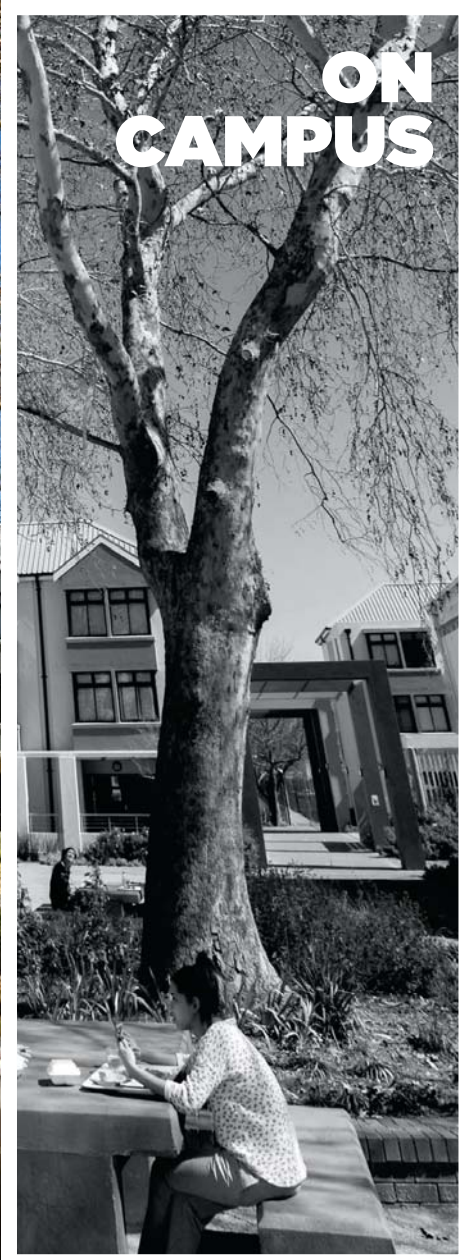
STELLENBOSCH vanaf R975 000



Eenmanswoonstel Bad 1 WEB 3022846

MANNHEIM. Nuwe ontwikkeling in Die Weides. Betaal geen hereregte. Moderne eenhede met goeie sekuriteit. Parkeerplek en braaieriewe in kompleks.

PERSOONLIKE PROFESSIONELE DIENS EN ADVIES



WHOSE KNOWLEDGE COUNTS?



Over the course of a year, the seminar series “Indexing the Human” opened up an intellectual space at Stellenbosch University (SU) around classification, transformation and knowledge production at institutions of higher education.

By **LYNNE RIPPENAAR-MOSES**

When the “Indexing the Human (ITH)” seminar series hosted its first academic talk in August 2014, the group of academics driving the series could not have foreseen the impact it would have on Stellenbosch University, its student population and staff, and institutions of higher learning both locally and internationally.

“The series has not only produced a research group with a number of

interconnected projects and initiatives, but most importantly, what we have achieved, is to open up an intellectual space at the university and in South Africa in general where we can

start asking rigorous and critical questions about the human sciences, how knowledge is produced and how we think about managing populations and classifying people,” explains Dr Thomas Cousins, one of the academics leading the ITH programme.

The “Indexing the Human:

From Classification to a Critical Politics of Transformation” series is a year-long programme of seminars, workshops and collaborative learning opportunities focused on rethinking the past and future of social anthropology and human sciences more broadly at the institution and in the region.

With funding from the Mellon Foundation, Stellenbosch researchers Profs Steven Robins and Kees van der Waal, as well as Drs Cousins, Lindsey Reynolds and Bernard Dubbeld led the programme, drawing on a number of local, regional and international scholars to participate.

“More particularly, by thinking with this concept of the index, by looking at the history of anthropology and how other related disciplines have classified and indexed human populations in the past, we are able to look with fresh eyes at contemporary issues around politics of difference today – for example, citizens versus foreigners, the healthy and the sick, settlers and indigenous persons,” says Cousins.

Quoting from the ITH group statement which was issued in May 2015 in support of transformation at SU and more broadly within higher education in South Africa, the researchers elaborate: “Right now in South Africa and across many parts of the world, we are desperately in need of critical scholarship, reflection, and debate, of the most rigorous and robust kind, on the various ways in which exclusion and inclusion, identification and classification, enumeration and administration, operate together in subtle and pernicious ways to dehumanise ourselves and our brothers and sisters – whether we are from Klerksdorp, Kuilsrivier, KZN, Kenya or Kazakhstan.

**THIS SERIES HAS
FUNDAMENTALLY
SHAPED THE WAY
S.U. IS RESPONDING
TO ISSUES OF RACE,
TRANSFORMATION AND
LANGUAGE**



"We must question carefully and specifically how ideas of *volk*, tribe, ethnicity and race are welded together with language, class, purity, and entitlement if we are to make sense of the histories of conquest and exploitation that we all inherit and live with today."

During its run, the series also drew some criticism, mainly from those associated with the former Anthropology Department (now the Sociology and Social Anthropology Department) and some other spheres.

The entire programme was organised around four thematic focal areas and took the form of seminar themes: "Technologies of Governance and the Shapes of Politics"; "The Place of Race"; "Science, Experimentality and Intervention"; and "Kinship, Ethics and the Everyday in South Africa".

These seminars included leading international and local scholars from the likes of Profs Peter Redfield (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, USA); Saul Dubow (University of London, UK) who specialises in the history of race in South Africa; and Keith Breckenridge (University of the Witwatersrand), whose research is focused on biometrics and governance in colonial Africa.

Talks and debates that have drawn a lot of interest were that by scholar and philosopher Prof Achille Mbembe on "Decolonising the University Now"

in April 2015, and a public debate on "Language and Transformation at Stellenbosch University – critically rethinking the language policy at Stellenbosch now".

In his talk, Mbembe spoke about the current focus on campuses across South Africa to bring "white supremacy to its knees" and the removal of the Cecil John Rhodes statue from the UCT campus.

"Those versions of whiteness that produced men like Rhodes must be recalled and de-commissioned if we have to put history to rest, free ourselves from our own entrapment in white mythologies and open a future for all here and now," said Mbembe.

However, he was quick to caution those who wished to relegate white people to the position of "settlers" and exclude them from the long-term project of transforming higher education institutions in South Africa.

The ITH team says: "This series has fundamentally shaped the way SU is responding to issues of race, transformation and language. We had a number of debates that went beyond the scope of academics but focused more on community engagement, for example, and the debate on the language policy at SU."

Other community engagement initiatives included co-hosting the David Goldblatt exhibition on "the red ribbon in the time of HIV", holding a debate on museums and representations of race, and

co-hosting the exhibition *Diseases of Secrecy* and a debate on South Africa's chemical and biological warfare programme.

"We have made it possible for scholars to connect their own empirical work with very contemporary public concerns around curriculum change, transformation, language and race in public life in general and in higher education in particular, so that we are able to provide both empirical detail and critical concepts to contribute to opening up the public space for thinking and debate," says the team.

While the programme itself has come to an end, the team says this is not the end of the platform they have created.

"In the future we hope to turn this programme into a teaching and research programme and also take up some of the themes we discussed in our series and expand on them in future."

For more information on the programme, visit www.indexingthehuman.org.

• *Lynne Rippenaar-Moses is the marketing officer at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.*



SU researchers initiated the "Indexing the Human" research project after a postgraduate student in the Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology, Handri Walters, stumbled upon a human skull and two hair and eye colour charts (pictured) among the remnants of the closed-down Anthropology Department (*Volkekunde*) while researching the history of the former department. It would seem that these objects were used in the classification of people into race categories. Questions then arose about the use of the objects in teaching. Photos: ANTON JORDAAN



Be the reason
someone
SMILES
today

MATIE WITH A BRIGHT SMILE

Blain van Wyk, a Political Science Master's student at Stellenbosch University (SU), has turned his own hardships with a cleft palate and lip into an opportunity to help others.

By **SONIKA LAMPRECHT**

Hailing from Paarl, Blain van Wyk was born with a cleft palate and lip. He was a mere three days old when he underwent surgical repair for his lip, while his palate was fixed at the age of nine months. Many operations and many hours in doctors' rooms followed.

"It was hard having to go through so many operations. When I was smaller, I was absent from school a lot because of it, and of course, the children at school made fun of the way I looked."

After matriculating from Paarl Gymnasium, he enrolled at Stellenbosch University. In his second year, Blain heard about Operation Smile South Africa, an organisation that performs free reconstructive surgery to repair cleft palates in children in under-resourced areas.

"It touched me personally to such an extent that I wanted to become involved. At that stage, there was no Operation Smile Student Society, so I could not become involved on campus. Therefore, I decided to start my own project and raise funds for children with cleft palates and lips.

"The natural place to start was Wilgenhof, my residence. One day at lunch, I got up in the dining hall and shared my story, and everyone was in favour of the project."

Wilgenhof residents were asked to support the project by putting only a small amount in an envelope every month. But, says Blain, he was astonished to find that the envelopes sometimes contained R20, R50 and

even R100. These contributions eventually paid for five children's surgery.

"I will never be able to thank them enough for supporting the Smile Project in this way. It changed the lives of five children in Southern Africa for good."

Eight Wilgenhof residents, including Blain, also had the opportunity to travel with Operation Smile SA to gain first-hand experience of this organisation's work in Southern Africa.

In his third year, Blain's History lecturer, Prof Sandra Swart, asked him to give a presentation on Operation Smile in class. "Two days later, a girl – to this day I don't know her name – came up to me and handed me an envelope with money for Operation Smile. At that moment, I realised: You never know who might hear your story."

Shortly thereafter, he held another talk on Operation Smile SA, this time at the ladies' residence Sonop, where one of the residents, Jeanine Botha, came up with the idea of establishing a student society in order to involve more students. "Jeanine and I started the Operation Smile Student Society. Without her, we would not have been where we are today."

They want to use this student society to promote leadership, raise awareness and encourage volunteerism and fundraising for Operation Smile SA.

According to the Operation Smile SA website, one in every 1 000 babies in Africa is born with a cleft lip or palate, or both. "It really isn't all that

rare," says Blain. "It's just that people are not always aware of it, or of the challenges associated with it, or that they can make a difference. That's why I will always share my story.

"People don't necessarily ask me about the fact that I was born that way – I suspect they may be a bit scared to ask. But many people want to know how they can become involved. I also wear an Operation Smile bracelet, which catches people's attention and leads to conversation about it. I'm not ashamed of it at all, so I'm always more than happy to answer people's questions.

"When I was in Rwanda, 228 patients turned up in the hope of receiving reconstructive surgery, but Operation Smile SA could only assist 138. So, the more awareness and funds we raise, the more people we can assist."

Today, Blain is a proud and confident ambassador for Operation Smile SA, but he admits that self-acceptance wasn't that easy at first.

"When I was younger, I used to wonder why I had to be born that way – I so wanted to look like the other children. But since I have come to truly accept and love myself for who I am and what I look like, everything has changed. Now I can use my own experience to make a difference in the lives of other children born the way I was. When I look back today, I know exactly why I was born that way."

• *Sonika Lamprecht is a journalist at SU's Division of Corporate Marketing.*

FAST FACTS

- Every three minutes, a child with a cleft palate and lip is born somewhere in the world. These children are often unable to eat, talk, socialise or smile.
- One in ten babies born with a cleft palate will die before the age of 1.
- Children who do not receive reconstructive surgery often struggle to breathe, eat, drink and talk. This results in malnutrition as well as medical and psychological problems.
- Many children with cleft palates and lips develop permanent and significant hearing loss.
- It takes as little as 45 minutes for one operation to repair a cleft lip and change a child's life forever.

BECOME INVOLVED

- Visit the Operation Smile SA website at <http://southafrica.operationsmile.org/>, or look for "Operation Smile Student Society – Stellenbosch" on Facebook.
- Name Operation Smile SA as the beneficiary on your Woolworths MySchool card.
- You can also collect the caps of Fair Cape milk bottles and hand them in at various points across the Cape Peninsula. Visit <http://www.faircape.com/millionsmiles/> for more information.



EYE ON THE BALL

Maties Sport continues Stellenbosch University's (SU) proud sporting tradition with its five new focus units.

By **PIA NÄNNY**

Maties Sport means business: It wants to achieve a dominant position within focus sports at tertiary, regional, national and international level; develop world-class sportsmen and women; deliver an excellent university sport experience; increase participation in recreational sport; build social capital and raise the percentage of sportsmen and women who also achieve academic success.

This might seem quite ambitious, but Ilhaam Groenewald, who started her second year as chief director of Maties Sport in August, has no doubt that it is possible – “provided that we are willing to move out of our comfort zones and address the challenges that lies ahead”.

“Stellenbosch University has a long and proud sporting tradition and we plan to use this as a strong platform from which to launch an exciting future. This is also clear in our new vision: ‘Drawing on tradition – Imagining the future’.

“Sport can make a significant contribution to the University’s commitment to holistic student development by facilitating the pursuit of both academic and sporting excellence as well as providing opportunities for a healthy and active lifestyle.

“Transformation is also important to us, but we don’t just want to recruit a group of students; we also want to look after them well.”

As chief director, Groenewald’s task is to focus on strategic leadership, as guided by SU’s *Institutional Intent and Strategy* (IIS).

This means that Maties Sport, just like any other support or academic division at SU, strategically focuses on broadening access and improving the institution’s diversity profile; maintaining the student success rate and contributing to the research agenda; as well as providing visionary leadership to enhance the university’s societal impact.

“Sport on tertiary level has changed significantly over the last 5 to 8 years,” says Groenewald. “There is a bigger emphasis on demonstrating success in both academic and sport performances.”

Maties Sport has identified seven high performance or priority codes, namely athletics, cricket, football, hockey, netball, rugby and swimming.

“The aim is to increase this number to 10 by 2019. Rugby remains one of our flagship sporting codes and for me our biggest asset as a result of its status at international, national and provincial levels. It also has the highest level of participation if you take into consideration the very popular Sauer Cup competition.”

“I’m excited about the future of Maties Sport and the role it can play in contributing to SU’s strategic aims and the broader South African vision for sport.

“To move forward we need innovative thinking and an excellent understanding of the current sport environment.”

• *Pia Nännny is a freelance journalist who studied at SU.*

5 NEW SPORTS UNITS

High Performance Sport Unit

This unit aims to recruit and produce winners in both team and individual sports, and to facilitate the academic success of student athletes through the athlete support programme.

Centre for Human Performance Sciences

This centre aims to facilitate research and community interaction, develop academic collaborations, deliver innovative athlete, coach and trainer education, and infuse technology into sport coaching and training.

Recreation and Active Lifestyle Unit

This unit aims to promote the benefits of participation in physical activity, provide active recreational programmes that are relevant and appealing and develop new opportunities in recreation and community interaction.

Events and Communication Unit

This unit focuses on planning and hosting events at Maties Sport's facilities.

Health and Fitness Centre at Coetzenburg

This world-class gymnasium does not only cater for high-performance athletes but also for students and members of the public.

Important initiatives

- A new recruitment strategy that provides 90 spaces for talented student athletes
- High-performance fast-track plans for rugby, athletics and netball
- The allocation of a High Performance Sport House where student athletes will receive holistic support
- Appointment of a Maties Sport Advisory Board to provide expertise in different areas
- Human Resources Strategy that supports the appointment of the best coaches and staff

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2015

- **Focus sport codes:** The FNB Maties Rugby team, Steinhoff Maties Men's and Women's hockey teams and the Maties Football team won their respective leagues. Three athletes and one swimmer represented South Africa at the World Student Games in South Korea where Justine Palframan (read more on page 71) won gold in the 400 m. She and Maties discus athlete Victor Hogan were included in the SA team to participate in the IAAF World Athletics Championships in Beijing in August.
- **ParaSport:** The Paralympic sprinter Ilse Hayes set a world record in the T13 class when she ran the 100 m in 11.89 s. Maties ParaSport athletes set five African records and seven South African records at the national championships. Paralympic swimmer and law student, Hendri Herbst, won two bronze medals at the IPC World Championships and Maties ParaSport cyclists also took gold at several international competitions, among others two gold medals for hand-cyclist Justine Asher.
- **USSA (July results):** Maties Cycling and Maties Badminton were crowned champions in their respective University Sport South Africa competitions. Maties Surfing, Maties Gymnastics and Maties Hockey's women's team were all runners-up, while Maties Hockey's men's team finished third. Maties Rugby and Maties Netball took fourth place in their competitions.



SU's Hans-Werner Heuer won the long road race (116 km), which was part of the USSA cycling competition that was held in Stellenbosch and surrounding areas.
Photo: RALDA VAN WYK



ROAD TO RIO

Maties ParaSport athlete and Paralympian champion Ilse Hayes is in the homestretch of her career and is pulling out all the stops to end it on a high note at the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.

By **PIA NÄNNY**

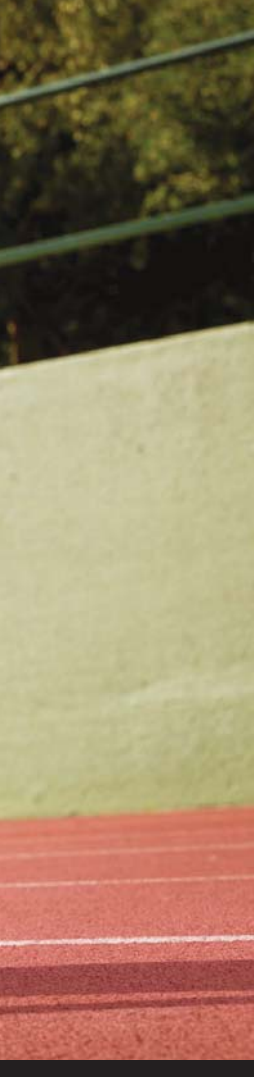
If everything goes according to plan, Ilse Hayes will take part in her last Paralympic Games – Rio 2016 – shortly after her 31st birthday. She aims to conclude her international career, which started in 2001, after the IPC World Championships, to be held in the Olympic Stadium in London in 2017.

In 1996, Hayes was 11 years old when she was diagnosed with Stargardt's Disease, a condition that affects the central vision and the ability to distinguish detail. The warning signs came when Hayes, an outstanding sportswoman and especially tennis player,

started missing volley shots at the net because her eyes could no longer follow the ball.

She took part in her first international athletics meeting in 2001 and went from strength to strength. She won five medals at three different Paralympic Games: bronze in the 400 m in Athens, and gold in the long jump and silver in the 100 m in Beijing, as well as in London.

"ParaSport has developed a lot over the years," says Hayes. "It has become a great deal more professional, countries invest more, and the public is better informed. The London Paralympic Games were almost completely



sold out. The spirit at the Paralympic Games is something special. Everyone attending has experienced some form of hardship; everybody needs somebody for something."

After the highlight of London 2012, where she defended her long-jump title despite a torn quad muscle, 2013 turned out to be a very difficult year. Hayes was plagued by injuries and had to work hard to strengthen her body and her mind. She gave up long jump and decided to focus on her track items – the 100 m and the 200 m.

She also gave up her job at a community sports project to give herself one last chance to be able to concentrate fully on her sport. Her performances over the past year prove that this was the right decision.

Hayes kicked off 2015 with a new African record in the 200 m and followed this performance with a world record in the 100 m in the T13 class, and another Africa record in the 200 m. She bettered both records at the IPC Competition in São Paulo, Brazil. She also took

part in IPC athletics in Europe (Italy and Germany) where she dominated the 100 m and 200 m items in her class.

In September 2015, she had to withdraw from an exhibition race in Rio de Janeiro and also missed the African Games due to injury. Her rehabilitation and preparation were aimed at the IPC World Championships in Doha in October 2015.

Hayes has served as an inspiration to many others over the years and has been recognised in various ways. The Order of Ikhamanga: Silver was bestowed on her in 2013, and in the same year she was included in the *Mail & Guardian's* list of "200 Young South Africans", a list that recognises influential South Africans under the age of 35.

She has been nominated for and has received the Western Cape Government's Sportswoman of the Year with a Disability Award a few times, among others in 2015. In August 2015, Gsport honoured her in the same category.

"I wouldn't change my life for anything. God brought these circumstances across my path and it is my responsibility to make the most of my talent and use the opportunities I get to the fullest. I see it as a platform to inspire people and give them hope," she concludes.

- Dr Suzanne Ferreira has been Hayes' coach since

2005 and she trains with other Paralympic stars such as Fanie van der Merwe and Arnú Fourie. Other track and field athletes preparing for possible participation in Rio de Janeiro are Anruné Liebenberg, Anika Pretorius, Charl du Toit, Dyan Buis, Zanele Situ and Reinhardt Hamman.

- Pia Nänny studied at SU and is a freelance journalist.

STUDENT ATHLETES EXCEL

Mountain biking: Multiple South African and African mountain-biking champion and Matie student Mariske Strauss (24) was included in the *Mail & Guardian's* 2015 edition of "200 Young South Africans". This supplement features notable South Africans under the age of 35.

Strauss (24) is a third-year BSc Sport Science student at SU. She has competed in mountain biking on a professional level for the past ten years and has been a SA champion in every age group she has competed in. She represented South Africa at the 2014 Commonwealth Games and has completed two Absa Cape Epic races.

Now, Strauss has her eye on a place in the SA team for the Olympic Games in Rio 2016.

Athletics: Justine Palframan, Maties athlete and third-year BSc Sport Science student, has exceeded all expectations this year. In July, she became the first South African woman to win a gold medal in the 400 m event at a World Student Games when she completed the distance in a personal best time of 52.27 s.

She was also included in the SA team to compete in the IAAF World Athletics Championships in Beijing in August.

Palframan describes this season as her best ever with personal best times in the 100 m, which she doesn't compete in very often, and her specialist items, the 200 m and the 400 m, in which she is also the reigning SA champion.



SOMETHING TO SING ABOUT

With the SU Woordfees taking over the management of the University Choir this year, the 80-year-old choir is set on a path to even more successes.

By **FRIEDA LE ROUX**

The SU Woordfees 2015 is in the past, but the energy at the Erfurt House, where the festival offices are, doesn't seem to lessen. Apart from the festival itself and the WOW Project, which runs throughout the year, the Woordfees team is now also responsible for the management of the University Choir and the Buya Project.

"We have taken over management of the choir in April already," Saartjie Botha, festival director, says of this new development. It means the Woordfees will in future act as choir manager: overseeing choir affairs. Organising practice

times and venues, CD sales and marketing are some of the tasks that will be done at Erfurt House.

This change was suggested by Dr Jerome Slamet, the acting executive manager in the office of the rector, Prof Wim de Villiers. Apart from the fact that the Woordfees, within the bigger university set-up, is a unique operational environment, it is also unfair to expect a choir manager to have all the different skills necessary to do the job – from marketer and comforter to problem solver and wardrobe manager.

Botha reckons it's a natural fit. "There aren't



only music students in the choir; it is all about greater community participation – much like the Woordfees and WOW Project. The diverse profile of the choir – with 80 to 100 voices – offers a unique opportunity for members to meet people from other backgrounds. At the moment, the choir also has 21 members from Tygerberg campus.

Botha says the choir is getting ready to defend its championship title at the World Choir Games in Sochi, Russia, in 2016. At the previous event held at Riga, Latvia, in 2014, the choir was the winner in all three categories they participated in: Musica Sacra, Spirituals and Mixed Choirs. If you keep in mind that less than half of the choristers can read music, it makes this achievement so much more remarkable.

But a good choir is led by the strong hand of a good conductor.

And with André van der Merwe at

the helm, Stellenbosch's singing students couldn't ask for better. Apart from also conducting the Stellenberg Girls Choir, he has a very busy programme as judge and guest lecturer at various international competitions and summer schools.

This year, he has already been a judge at the Portuguese Summer School and Choral Competition, where he also presented workshops. From there he went to Wernigerode and Magdeburg, where he presented master classes. Furthermore, he will be a judge at the International Choral Competition & Grand Prix of Nations, an international competition in Manila in the Philippines, and in November the IFCM World Choral Expo 2015 in Macau, China.

Van der Merwe's programme for 2016 is also a busy affair: he will act as judge at the European Choral Grand Prix in Germany and the third International Choral Festival in Singapore. He is also presenter of the BBC Choir Competition in England.

Botha says it is important that Van der Merwe – the choir's seventh conductor – is able to focus on what he excels at, and not waste his time and creative energy on management issues.

The University Choir, founded in 1936 and celebrating its 80th year in 2016, is also the oldest university choir in the country. Will we be celebrating this achievement? "Of course," says Botha. She will not let the cat out of the bag just yet, but says that a successful visit to the World Choir Games will make the eighty wonderful years even more memorable.

• *Frieda le Roux is a freelance journalist who studied journalism at SU.*



Greta Gericke

SU CHOIR VETERAN

She was born in the year when SU was established: 1918. She became the first student to obtain a degree in Physical Education at Stellenbosch. She then went on to receive a Master's degree at the age of 80. And to top it all, she's the longest-living SU choir member.

Greta Gericke's voice is crystal clear on the other end of the phone line at her home in George as she starts telling you about her days as a Matie.

In the early 1940s, she was one of the first SA students to obtain a qualification in Physical Education. At 83 years of age, she represented the Southern Cape in the swimming pool and won a bronze medal at the national championships. She started working at a community centre for Xhosa women at the age of 90, where she showed them the ropes of gardening, among others. Also in her ninth decade, she was named the most inspiring woman in the Southern Cape.

Initially, Gericke went to study physical education in England, as there were no similar courses in South Africa. But when the programme was introduced at SU, she came home to continue her studies here shortly after the start of World War II.

Gericke, who is the mother of Prof Matilda Burden, cultural historian at the SU Museum, was captain of SU's women's hockey team in 1940 and served as house committee member of the residence Harmonie.

She laughingly recalls: "In those days, we designed our own sports uniforms. I remember how we rode our bicycles from Coetzenburg, where we received our practical training, to the main campus. It was a completely different town from the Stellenbosch we know today. For instance, there were no buildings at Coetzenburg. The only built structure was the pavilion."

Burden describes her 97-year-old mother as "formidable" and still "going strong".

Gericke says: "There really isn't anything specific to which I owe my good health. Some of my relatives also lived to a high age. It's just by grace."

– STEPHANIE NIEUWOUDT



MUSIC FOR HOLLYWOOD

The recording studio at SU's Conservatoire has produced soundtracks for Hollywood movies. And if they play their cards right, they might just outdo the famed Abbey Road Studios in London.

By **NAUDÉ VAN DER MERWE**

The famous Abbey Road Studios in London has hosted some of the best musicians in the world.

The Beatles recorded there, also The Hollies and Pink Floyd. Abbey brags on its website that its studio space is the largest in the world, but Gerhard Roux, lecturer in music technology at Stellenbosch University (SU) and main sound technician at the SU studio, begs to differ.

"If you take the space at our disposal (this includes the Fismer and Endler Hall), ours is slightly bigger than the world's biggest commercial studios. And we are better," he quips. That is just one of the reasons this studio is getting international traction.

Apart from various recordings

on the TwoPianists label by SU's husband-and-wife piano duo of Profs Luis Magalhães and Nina Schumann, as well as other internationally recognised classical musicians, music in other genres is also recorded – from rockers Karen Zoid and Grammy-winning band Switchfoot to the a cappella sounds of the SU Choir and Ladysmith Black Mambazo. More recently, film scores have been added to the studio's ever-growing list.

"Movie soundtracks give us our edge at the moment", says Roux.

An example: the percussion parts of the 2012 animation movie *Zambezia* – the score was composed by Bruce Retief – was recorded in Stellenbosch, while the strings and winds were put to tape in Los Angeles, using mostly musicians from the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra.

Roux, who worked here and abroad as the project's sound technician, convinced the producers to record the entire score of their next project, a film called *Kumba*, at the Stellenbosch studios, using the local Stellenbosch Camerata as orchestra. This orchestra consists of ad hoc professional players and students. It would cut costs, and Roux believed that because of the systems in place, he would also be able to enhance the quality of the recording. And *voilà!*

"*Kumba* is a better product. The students understood the weight of the situation. They truly give their best. We know we're working with not-so-experienced musicians, so we know that we have to develop better socio-technical systems."

Film music also reaches a larger audience than the ones who attend concerts. Local movies like *Skoonheid*, *Hollywood in my huis* and *I now pronounce you black and white* also recorded soundtracks here.

"If everyone who saw *Kumba* had to sit in the Endler Hall, we'd fill the hall to capacity every night for 311 years. That's the sort of pressure that make students really concentrate," explains Roux.

Socio-technical systems is something Roux, currently busy with his doctorate in this field, is clearly very passionate about. In October 2015, he presented a paper in New York at the international Audio Engineering Society about the system they use at the SU studio. He believes systems should be developed in such a way that humans do what they do best; and the same counts for computers. A computer can't be creative, after all.

Roux speaks of his experience at *Star Wars* director George Lucas' Skywalker Sound, a state-of-the-art studio now also used by Disney.

MOVIE SOUNDTRACKS GIVE US OUR EDGE AT THE MOMENT

"Four people sit there with the best equipment. One guy has to make a dialogue change, but his workstation is keeping time code and he has to ask the other engineer to release him... I sat there and thought these guys clearly didn't think about this system, because they had wasted two minutes on useless communication. It's the best studio in the world, and look how they struggle!"

Roux's connection with this international community has created interesting opportunities where role players in the industry have visited the Stellenbosch studios, and stood in awe of the fact that people are "churning out movies on this side of the world".

This philosophy and the opportunity for practical experience is a huge draw card for many postgraduate students with an interest in music technology. Roux says nothing prevents music technology students from recording orchestra rehearsals, thereby fine-tuning their craft in the process.

And most of the students are not from the Music Department.

"We have Master's students from Economics, Visual Arts and mechanical engineers. Mechanical engineers have a practical way of thinking. We want people who think in weird ways. Creativity is the key."

Roux himself studied theology at undergraduate level. "It teaches you how to trust when things go wrong!" he laughs. But at the moment he feels he is exactly where he should be, and the Hollywood sounds don't interest him. He enjoys lecturing as well as the research aspect of his job, and feels like he'll struggle to come to terms with their more rigid socio-technical systems. There's one exception: Nashville, the world's county music Mecca.

"Most of the things I use when recording classical chamber music is borrowed from country music, because those guys' perspective and the way they use sound are truly inspiring. Nashville is years ahead."

Roux says he only has "Unisa Grade 1 music theory" behind his name, but that doesn't mean esteemed musicians don't respect him.

While working as an assistant for seven-time Grammy-winning sound technician for Deutsche Grammophon, Wolf-Dieter Karwatky, on Schumann and Magalhães' first CD, the piano duo spotted his talent. Schumann says: "Gerhard really impressed us with his expertise, but also with his sense of humour. Over the years he has made us sob with laughter."

"Being able to use a wonderful hall like the Endler is a fantastic experience. Most sound studios are small and as an artist you have to try and transport yourself to a concert hall. Here we have the opportunity to play for the hall with a microphone that lets you into people's living rooms. We're also in an environment we are familiar with," says Schumann.

Abbey Road should watch out, Stellenbosch is on the way up.

• Naudé van der Merwe is an SU alumnus, freelance music critic and script writer for Homebrew Films.

BOOKS

Books editor **STEPHANIE NIEUWOUDT** reports on writers and their books.

Photo: **DENVOR DE WEE / DIE BURGER**



'Nagmusiek' ravages writer

Prof Stephanus Muller, head of Stellenbosch University's (SU) Documentation Centre for Music, was awarded the University of Johannesburg's creative writing prize for a debut work in 2015, and has received two nominations for the kykNET/Rapport prize. Part fiction, part biography, *Nagmusiek* (Fourthwall Books) consists of three volumes about the South African composer Arnold van Wyk (1916-1983).

Why did you choose Arnold van Wyk as subject?

I encountered his music while working towards my doctorate in Oxford. In the process, I met his friend of many years, Howard Ferguson, who had an amusing way of talking about Van Wyk. He showed me amazing handwritten manuscripts, among them the *Missa in illo tempore*. That was the start of my Van Wyk project. It gained momentum after I moved back to South Africa with my family in 2001.

Nagmusiek is a grandiose work. Is it not intimidating for readers who aren't academically inclined?

For me, academic writing isn't distinguishable from creative work. The way in which a book, article or thesis takes form is never an automatic process that occurs because of pre-conceived ideas. It develops as you engage with the material. I would hope to think that the book became what it is because I constantly tried to listen to my material. I aim high when I think about possible readers – my target audience is my sons: Johan (10) and Willem (16). They are smart, wilful, don't take rubbish, keep me on my toes, and forgive me the right wrongs.

How much time did you spend working on *Nagmusiek*?

The whole process, from conception to publication: fourteen years. The research consisted of compiling the archive, sorting a legacy, conducting interviews, studying manuscripts and other primary documents, developing form, writing, rewriting, and rewriting the manuscript again, dropping into and recovering from depression, discovering myself as writer, losing people who were important to me, and finding comrades along the way.

When I think back it's difficult to recall the emotions that the work awoke in me. I remember how fear gripped me when I sat in the university's library, day by day sorting through a sea of documents. Sometimes I had to leave the space just to brace myself, only to go back to my bunker to continue the slow process of sorting through things.

And then I remembered how perplexed I was to see the word "Ansbach" in one of Van Wyk's diaries, years after I created the character Werner Ansbach, the biographer in the book. It was harrowing working under the expectation that the book might not find a publisher. When I started with the project, I had just turned 30.

For the last years of the project I was a much older man who had to finish the work started by a young man. I was disconcerted by that young man's attempts; felt how the book was shaping and tormenting me during my change of life.



BUYS - 'N GRENSROMAN WILLEM ANKER

Dr Willem Anker, lecturer in Creative Writing in the Department of Afrikaans and Dutch at Stellenbosch University, is apparently incapable of writing something

without receiving a prize. In 2015, he received the UJ Prize for Creative Writing for *Buys - 'n Grensroman* (Kwela).

In 2008, he received the UJ prize for best debut work in the creative writing category, as well as the Jan Rabie/Rapport prize for innovative writing for his debut novel, *Siegfried*. For his drama *Slaghuis* he received the Sanlam prize for Afrikaans drama, and in 2011 he was awarded the Jan Rabie and Marjorie Wallace bursary.

At public appearances, halls fill up without fail — like in March 2015 when he was in conversation with SU psychology lecturer and literature aficionado Prof Desmond Painter at the SU Woodfees.

Anker said he was immediately interested in Coenraad de Buys when he read about this imposing man in Max du Preez's book *Of warriors, lovers and prophets*. De Buys apparently had 300 children with women from different black tribes.

De Buys, an important historical figure from the Eastern Frontier, didn't abide by any rules. He crossed borders — sexually, geographically and morally. According to Anker it's also these traits that attracted him to the character.

In *Buys*, Anker creates a restless Eastern Frontier where loyalty is rare. Although people create alliances because of language and skin colour, betrayal is no less prevalent. In the midst of this chaos, De Buys gathers a group of followers, leading them into battle.

Buys - 'n Grensroman is partly presented in the first person with an all-seeing De Buys whose able to look back through the centuries. He never answers readers' questions, but keeps them in the palm of his hand.

This story provides an alternative narrative to the type of history usually taught in schools. Sometimes you'll gasp for breath in disapproval, but you won't be able to put it down.



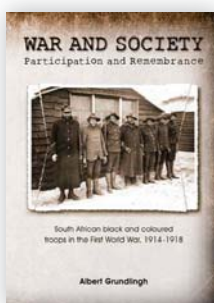
DIE MOND VOL VUUR: BESKOUINGS OOR DIE WERK VAN BREYTEN BREYTENBACH LOUISE VILJOEN

Prof Louise Viljoen is the chairperson of the Department of Afrikaans and Dutch at SU. Her book, about the work of Breyten Breytenbach (Sun Press), is an in-depth study of the writer's role in the

literary, political and cultural landscape of South Africa.

In a recent interview Viljoen said she had been enchanted by Breytenbach's poetry since her high school years, something that hasn't diminished over the years.

The book presents a wide-ranging view on different facets of the writer and his work. She spends time on the use of proper nouns and names in his poetry, the writer's sometimes uncomfortable relationship with Africa, his prison poetry, his father figures, tension between different identities, his dramas, and other poets in conversation with Breytenbach as public figure on the one hand but also as private poet.



WAR AND SOCIETY: PARTICIPATION AND REMEMBRANCE - SOUTH AFRICAN BLACK AND COLOURED TROOPS IN THE FIRST WORLD WAR, 1914-1918

ALBERT GRUNDLINGH

In this book (Sun Press), the historian Albert Grundlingh discusses the part played by black and coloured soldiers — a group often ignored — during the First World War.

Grundlingh tries to find answers to questions like why black and coloured men voluntarily fought in a war that had little to do with them. The gripping conclusion is that they didn't necessarily do it because of a sense of patriotism or because they tried to escape from drought and poverty, but because they had hoped that full citizenship would be theirs if they were willing to prove themselves by fighting in the war.

Although the story of the SS Mendi is rather well-known, it is still worth reading this book for the chapter about this tragedy and the way the truth was manipulated in order to serve political agendas. The SS Mendi sank with 823 crew members of the Fifth Battalion of the South African Native Labour Contingent (SANLC) on board. Of them, 616 died.

Grundlingh also investigates the reason why these soldiers were usually without weapons, how they were recruited, and the way in which white people overseas reacted to seeing black soldiers.



HERITAGE OF A CENTURY

In less than three years – in 2018 – Stellenbosch University celebrates its centenary. It's therefore quite fitting that the SU Art Museum is currently hosting the exhibition *Stellenbosch University: Past Present Future*.

By **STEPHANIE NIEUWOUDT**

As you wander through the space in the SU Art Museum that houses the history of Stellenbosch University (SU) in words, photos and video, there are various aspects that strike you: there are many more buildings

today, the fashions have changed tremendously, and the composition of the student corps is completely different.

It's indeed a journey back in time – but it's also a mirror that reflects both the past and the future.

Five years ago, says Prof Matilda

Burden, cultural historicist and curator of this exhibition, a team of external evaluators made up of local and international experts recommended that the museum include in its exhibitions one that also depicts the history of SU.

"A university museum should, after all, also portray that university's history and I feel that this particular exhibition should form part of the exhibitions till at least 2020. The exhibition would, of course, have to be constantly refreshed during that period," says Burden.

According to her the greatest challenge was the selection process. Trying to reflect about 130 years' comprehensive history with a legion of facets in an extremely

**AS LONG AS THERE
IS JUDICIOUS
CONSERVATION SO
THAT EVERYTHING THAT
WAS ISN'T OBLITERATED**

limited space was difficult. "Few people realise how diverse the activities and culture of the university are; it was impossible to give every aspect its due," she says.

The research didn't so much uncover surprises in "what it was that was discovered but in how difficult it was to determine many of the facts. There are quite a few facets that aren't being recorded properly".

In the course of time, change is inevitable. And the exhibition clearly reflects the changes that have taken place at SU over the past nearly 100 years. Does Burden believe there's loss as things change?

"I don't think there is a great loss with change because change simply means things don't continue in the same way as before. Culture is highly dynamic. As long as there is judicious conservation so that everything that was is not obliterated, change is, in fact, a very good thing. What you gain is the latest in trends and technology, and this prevents you from becoming stultified; after all, renewal brings progress, fresh ideas, variation, different visual impacts. Change should never, of course, be imposed simply for the sake of change – as often happens – it should always be necessary and meaningful."

Burden explains that it was important to her to depict a part of the history of the institution as factually correctly as possible.

"It was also important that, as the researcher and designer of the exhibition, I make no social or political commentary but that I remain as objective as possible. The exhibition therefore tries to portray SU's past, present and future factually – without interpretation, conjecture or commentary."

The exhibition focuses on various facets of university life: the academic side of things, life in the residences, sports happenings, cultural activities. As a visitor to the exhibition, you realise, once again, that students have always, together with the seriousness of academic life, also taken recreational life seriously.

"For me, it's important that visitors to the exhibition find the information both interesting and stimulating, that they're visually provoked and that they understand and appreciate the impact of this institution over the past 130 years where education and the community are concerned," explains Burden.

The part of the exhibition that deals with the future ends with a video of the late rector and vice-chancellor Prof Russel Botman, who unexpectedly passed away in June 2014. In this video, he explains his vision for the future of the university and the principles of the HOPE Project, a set of developmental objectives and a university-wide spirit through which SU is of service to the community.

"The HOPE Project remains relevant because hope is infinite," says Burden.

• *Stephanie Nieuwoudt is a freelance journalist and books editor.*

JOURNEY OF 100 YEARS

Although Stellenbosch University celebrates its centenary only in 2018, its origins can be traced even further back in the past to 1859, when a theological seminary was founded in Stellenbosch. Seven years later, a high school, Het Stellenbosch Gimnasium (today's Paul Roos Gymnasium), was founded with a view to educating students who might study at the seminary. This developed into the Stellenbosch Kollege, which, in 1887, became Victoria Kollege.

SU was officially inaugurated amid great festivities on 2 April 1918, but an act had been promulgated in 1916 already to convert Victoria Kollege into a university; SU officially came into being two years later.

Without the generous donation of 'Stellenbosch's benefactor', Jan Marais (or Oom Jannie), SU would not have come into being, however. As a 20-year-old, Jan Marais, along with three of his brothers – Pieter, Abraham and Christiaan – and their uncle Marthinus Neethling, went in search of fame and fortune on the diamond fields of the Vaal River in 1870. When Uncle Marthinus discovered a large diamond, he decided to buy all the remaining claims.

Christiaan, however, had already staked out a claim at the lowest point of the river in the area and found a wealth of alluvial diamonds there. In 1871, the Marais brothers also bought and successfully mined claims at New Rush, as Kimberley was known back then. Much later, they would become large shareholders in De Beers Consolidated Diamond Mines.

On his return to Stellenbosch, Jan and his brother Frikkie bought the farm Coetzenburg from their mother and it was here that Jannie's work as a philanthropist had a lasting impact on the Stellenbosch community. Shortly before his death in 1915, he left £100 000 for the founding of SU out of the original Victoria Kollege.



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GOOD MANNERS 388

When you've been squeezed through the Matieland mill, you'll receive not only an education but also learn so much more, writes SU alumnus, **LEON-BEN LAMPRECHT**.

To say that I was less than an outstanding student would be somewhat euphemistic: I squeezed my three-year BCom degree into four and a half years. Hopefully my children will study with a better sense of seriousness!

There is a legion of reasons for my poor academic showing: initially the wrong course, me underestimating the workload, the wrong major... But my attempts were also just plain dismal.

An old investment proverb goes as follow: "Past performance is no guarantee of future results". I'll use myself as an example: I wasn't the top student at school, but I definitely wasn't horrible either. Maybe I thought that my reasonable academic marks at school would cushion me from the realities of university?

The thing that definitely did not count in my favour was that I chose to express my tertiary freedom by mostly sitting around and talking nonsense in Bohemia, rather than attending class. The long and short of it was this: in my fourth year, Financial Accounting 3 beat me senseless – for the second time.

During the first round, a year earlier, Financial Accounting knocked me out in the third term: after two tests my marks were far too bad to make predicate. After throwing in the towel, I was determined to make the second time around count. I went to class often, even asked a Master's student in financial accounting to help me get ready for my first test. Plus, as you know, I had experience on my side.

The time for said test arrived, but fate, damned fate... The exam was on the same night as the "Henne-and-Hane" ball. Nonetheless, I wrote the test (my mind might have wandered somewhat). Some of the questions resembled Greek, but overall I thought it went well. That night I drank punch without worry.

Oops.

About two weeks later, after relapsing into the same bad-attendance routine, I receive a text from a friend: "The marks are out." I walked from Dagbreek to the Van der Ster building to find mine on the board.

My name is there, but no score. Only the curious words, "paper with lecturer". Cool, I thought, maybe he wants to congratulate me personally on my achievement. I should have realise my optimism was severely misplaced when the second student in front of me in the queue at Prof Leon Loxton's office ran out in tears. (Loxton is actually a very

kind man and currently teaching at the University of the Western Cape).

"Sit," Prof Loxton instructed when I walked in, pushing my paper over his desk without fanfare.

How did it go? Well, when you play cricket, your first objective as batsman is to get off the mark. That I achieved. The second is to at least reach double figures. With this I was ... well, less successful.

Out of a possible 100, my mark was... one. One!

While that sank in, Prof Loxton, with commendable self-control (I would have thrown a financial calculator at my head), explained that I am wasting state money as well as my parents'.

"Prof, if I may ask, what is the class average?" I fished rather wantonly.

"That is information I don't have to share with you," he replied retaining his composure.

"Yes, that is your good right. But I looked at the class marks, and it isn't very high, so you have to ask yourself if you did your job," I dared. After this Prof Loxton asked me to leave his office. I immediately marched over to the Admin building to change my major to Economics 3, a thing I should have done long ago.

Now it's a decade later and somehow I've found myself in the financial services industry. I'm extremely glad that I finished my BCom degree; I regret that I didn't work harder; and in the coming year I'm aiming to further my financial knowledge with postgraduate studies.

This time I have the right mentality.

Initially, I told this story to anyone who wanted to listen. But now? If one of my children spoke to a lecturer in that way...

But in all honesty, I wouldn't do anything differently. Even if this cock-up cost my parents and myself an extra year – something I tried to pay for, unsuccessfully, by attending medical trials overseas (that's a story for another time, and don't judge, we've already established my decision-making skills back then were dodgy).

Eventually it took hard work (academically and financially). It was an expensive lesson but one from which I gained an immense amount of knowledge, the most important being that nothing worthwhile comes easily.

And now that I have my own children: good manners never go out of fashion.

So, to Prof Loxton, and my parents, if you read this, I apologise!

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Netjiese woning in rustige woonbuurt. Ruim hoek erf met mooi uitsigte. Naby skole en Universiteit.

DE WIJNLANDEN R1 500 000



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