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gepubliseer sedert 1957 | published since 1957



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FROM THE EDITOR

Last year, when Stellenbosch University (SU) commemorated its Centenary, we reflected on what we would like to achieve in the next 100 years. And to make this a reality, we needed a solid plan.

The thinking behind this plan had already started in 2016, and last year, SU launched its *Vision 2040* and the *Strategic Framework 2019–2024*. This ambitious plan lays the foundation of our new era, and will guide us in a new way of thinking about where SU would like to be in 100 years.

In the previous edition of *Matieland* (our special Centenary issue) we reported on this new vision and strategy. In this issue, we show you how we have begun to work on realising our vision.

In line with the six core themes of our strategic framework, this issue reports on how we create a thriving university, offer a transformative student experience, build purposeful partnerships and inclusive networks, provide networked and collaborative teaching and learning, perform research that makes an impact, and strive to be an employer of choice.

Wayne

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PRINTING

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CHAT AND TWEET

Social media makes it possible for Maties all over the world to keep in contact with their alma mater. Here are a few of their online comments.



On Facebook

Callen Ballack

Nearly 5 years apart; my first time at the Danie Craven Stadium as a first year writing my dreams on a balloon and my last time at the Danie Craven Stadium as a Stellenbosch graduate. Needless to say, many of those dreams have changed form throughout the years and so have I, but I couldn't be happier about it. But mostly, I'm grateful for the friends who have turned into family, and for their lessons and friendship that I'll carry with me forever.



On Instagram

drdarrengreen

An absolute treat reconnecting with my old friend and #MatiesAlumni @heinz.winckler on the set of @expressoshow – we have travelled an incredible journey together and apart since our fun days during POP IDOLS first season back in 2002. #grace #significance #blessed



On Instagram
kckiekies

Hats off to my Dad! Great example to us all. One of the FIRST 2 students to study Food Science at @stellenboschuni many moons ago and still actively consulting in the food industry at almost 85!! #walkthetalk #vadersdag #workethic #paulroos #oldboy



On Instagram

lydszen

Stellenboschberg from my dorm Harmonie. 1980. #matieshomecoming #matiestuiskoms #matiesalumni



On Twitter

Anli Serfontein

Prof Wim de Villiers, #Stellenbosch vice-chancellor addressing @SU_Alumni in #Berlin this evening. A wonderful evening of connecting & networking.



PROF WIM DE VILLIERS looks at some of the challenges facing higher education generally, and Stellenbosch University specifically, and outlines our priorities for this year and going forward.

One of the biggest challenges that we face is that of change itself. Universities are some of society's most enduring institutions, dating back centuries. Yet the world is changing rapidly and technological advances, economic forces, demographic shifts and various other social factors mean universities are coming under pressure.

However, universities are also well placed to be ready for innovation. The challenges they face can be turned into opportunities. In 2018, we found ourselves at a very exciting point in the history of Stellenbosch University (SU).

We looked back on the past 100 years of our existence as a public university, but at the same time looked to the future, picturing where we wanted to go as an institution. .

The direction we took was to commit ourselves to the ideal of an inclusive, world-class university in and for Africa. We adopted a new guiding document, *Vision 2040 and Strategic Framework 2019–2024* as our response to the changes, challenges and opportunities facing us now and going forward into our second century.

The power of a vision lies in its ability to focus people on a higher purpose that matters to them. A shared vision inspires them to pull together, look to the long term and give their best, even under difficult circumstances. SU's *Vision 2040* is a bold, inspiring view of what we want to become and achieve: Africa's leading research-intensive university, globally recognised as excellent, inclusive and innovative, where we advance knowledge in service of society.

Going hand in hand with our vision is our *Strategic Framework 2019–2024*, which is aimed at guiding us towards realising our vision. The framework does this by spelling out six core strategic themes on which we need to focus. I will just focus on the first theme because it sets the tone for the rest.

Core strategic theme 1 is to build a thriving

FROM THE RECTOR'S OFFICE

Stellenbosch University. We want to make SU a vibrant, prosperous and systematically sustainable university. We want to bring about profound and sustainable change and regeneration in all facets and functions of SU to be agile, adaptive and responsive.

To help us build a thriving SU, we have set very specific institutional goals. A vital goal is to ensure the financial sustainability of the University for the future. This is important because although we have seen substantial increase in state funding for students, the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) warned last year that the sector “faces deep challenges in terms of resource availability”.

SUPPORT

Other sources of state funding – the National Research Foundation (NRF) and the Technology and Human Resources for Industry Programme (THRIP) – have diminished significantly, with dire consequences for universities in terms of postgraduate bursaries and research funding.

We are therefore continuing our efforts to raise funds for bursaries and research, and are grateful for all the support we receive. I always find it particularly encouraging when alumni contribute to their alma mater in the spirit of opening doors for the next generation of Maties.

This brings me to another challenge facing our sector. Access might have improved, but universities must also look after their students' academic success. With the youth unemployment rate in South Africa approaching 40%, going to university is seen as a potential way out of poverty. However, problems in the schooling system mean that students' readiness for higher education is poor, thus dropout rates are high and throughput low.

I am happy to report that in terms of student success, we received confirmation from the DHET last year that an eight-year tracking study of the 2009 cohort in three- and four-year programmes

at all universities, except Unisa, showed that SU had the highest throughput in South Africa (84% compared to the average of 68%) and also the second-lowest first-year dropout rate (8% compared to the average of 16%). This corresponds with our own figures indicating that since 2013, our students' module pass rate has consistently been above 85%.

THRIVING

The challenge for us is to keep up with educational innovations, such as the digital classroom, virtual learning and teaching and cloud-based computing.

Let me share some very exciting news with you – we will soon be establishing a ground-breaking initiative, the SU School for Data Science and Computational Thinking.

This initiative will span the entire academic project, from undergraduate and postgraduate training to research and specialist consultation. The School will run across faculties and will have multidisciplinary inputs and outputs. This should help to break down the walls that have traditionally separated academic disciplines at universities. All of this will stand us in good stead at a time when we are seeing the Fourth Industrial Revolution changing not only the world of work generally, but also *our* work in the knowledge sector.

From humble beginnings over a century ago, SU has grown into a university to be reckoned with. We confer just over 9 000 qualifications per year, we have the highest research output per fulltime academic in the country, and our social impact is significant.

I am honoured to lead this old university on its new journey and I am extremely proud of our alumni excelling across the world. With your support, we can go forward together in building a thriving Stellenbosch University committed to creating a better future for the people of our country, continent and the world.

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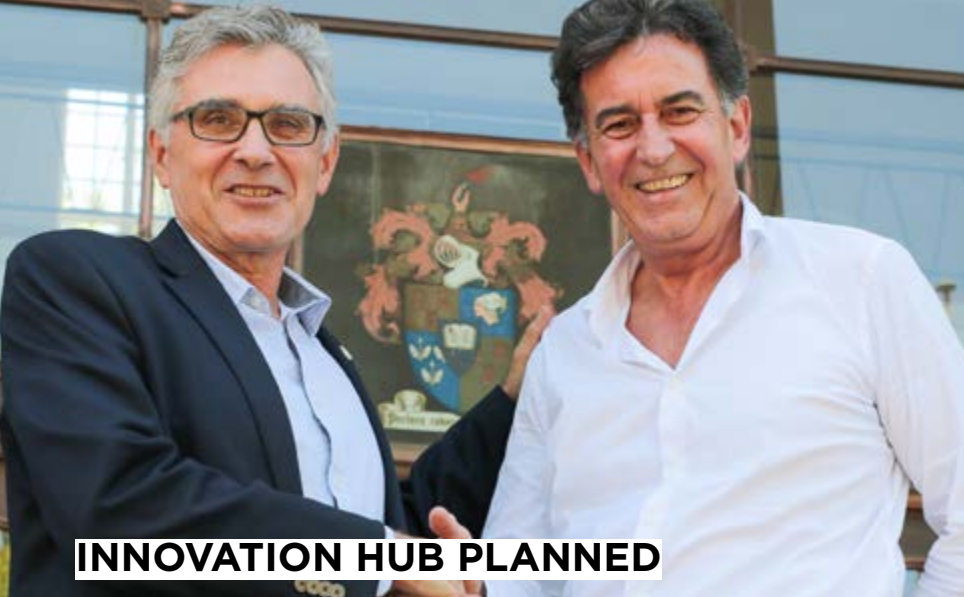
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Prof Wim de Villiers and Jaap du Toit of the Stellenbosch Wine and Country Estate.

INNOVATION HUB PLANNED

Stellenbosch University's (SU) vision to be Africa's leading research-intensive university is set to receive a major boost. This is thanks to a new world-class innovation hub to be established on 30 hectares of land that were recently donated to the University by the Stellenbosch Wine and Country Estate.

The land donated is located in the Cape Winelands region of Klapmuts and forms part of 253 hectares of land owned by the Stellenbosch Wine and Country Estate. This land will be the site for the newly planned Stellenbosch Smart City development.

Jaap du Toit, in his capacity as chairperson and shareholder of the Stellenbosch Wine and Country Estate (the developer of this Smart City), was

instrumental in making this donation possible.

The Stellenbosch Municipality sees the Klapmuts area as an important development node for the region over the next few decades.

"This wonderful gesture by the Stellenbosch Wine and Country Estate is testament to the trust that is placed in the future of Maties as we enter our second century as a university," SU Rector Prof Wim de Villiers says.

Anita Nel, Chief Director of Innovation at SU, said that although projects to utilise this area were still in the planning stages, the first order of business was likely to be to establish an innovation hub with conference facilities. "We aim to offer alternative space on the designated SU land for the startups outgrowing the space within the SU LaunchLab business incubator."

MEDICAL TRAINING EXPANDED TO NORTHERN CAPE

The Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences (FMHS) has expanded its footprint in the Northern Cape. This year, a small group of medical students will be completing their final year in Upington, contributing to much-needed medical services in the area.

"Rural communities, which make up 35% of South Africa's population, are generally underserved," explains Prof Ian Couper, Director of the Ukwanda Centre for Rural Health. "The Centre is a means by which the FMHS demonstrates and drives its commitment to addressing the rural healthcare needs of South Africa."

For several years now, SU medical and health science students have been doing short rotations at rural healthcare facilities in the Western, Northern and Eastern Cape. Now, a similar approach will be followed in Upington in the Northern Cape.

More plans for future expansion include the possibility of developing postgraduate training at the Dr Harry Surtie Hospital, including registrar rotations in general medical specialities. With this service, the Northern Cape – a province that doesn't have a medical school – will hopefully gain valuable skills and expertise.



SU medical student
Keaton Harris.

STUDENT ENTREPRENEUR COMPETES FOR GLOBAL HONOURS

Stellenbosch University medical student, Keaton Harris, has once again been recognised for his innovative start-up business, InforMED.

This time he was crowned, above some of the country's top start-up businesses, as the South African Champion of the Global Student Entrepreneur Awards.

Keaton's InforMed is an "offline mobile language translation application that aids the healthcare professional in creating a more refined differential diagnosis prior to the physical exam".

He was pitched against five other finalists in the contest, all of whom were chosen from around South Africa.

Last year, Keaton was part of a team that won a global competition run by the Young Sustainable Impact Innovation Program for their design prototype, which aims to help cross language barriers within the health sector.

As the winner of the South African leg of this global competition, Keaton won a cash prize as well as the opportunity to receive mentorship from a range of South African entrepreneurs.

Commenting on his latest success, Keaton said he was initially nervous to go up against such entrepreneurial talent. "I felt a feeling of utter surrealism because I have now competed against the best student start-ups throughout the country and have come out victorious."

FIRST EVER INTER-CONTINENTAL DIALOGUE HELD

In February, 15 Postgraduate Certificate of Education (PGCE) students in the Faculty of Education participated in the first ever inter-continental dialogue with PGCE students at the University of Bristol in the United Kingdom and the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

The virtual dialogue session took place at Stellenbosch University's (SU) Faculty of Education.

According to Prof Nuraan Davids, Chairperson of the Department of Education Policy Studies at SU, the research project aims to explore whether students' awareness and understanding of the principles of dialogue can be promoted through intercultural encounters with their peers at other universities via a digital platform provided by the Generation Global initiative.

Nuraan says the project builds on an existing partnership between university-based teacher educators and philosophers in three contrasting contexts – Hong Kong, South Africa and South West England – and has been broadened to include colleagues from intercultural and policy studies, students and other teacher educators.



IMPROVEMENTS AT MATIES GYMNASIUM

H

igh-performance coaches and trainers at Maties Sport not only have to manage student-athletes' physical workload, but must also

ensure that they train smartly and efficiently in the limited training time available.

Recent upgrades and improvements to Maties Gymnasium's High Performance (HP) area will assist the Maties Sport HP Unit's strength and conditioning coaches in this regard.

Although the HP area is not for the exclusive use of Maties Sport student-athletes, HP squads as well as individual HP athletes train in this area as part of their respective training programmes.

"From a capacity and logistics point of view,

we have to coordinate access to the Maties Gymnasium and maximise the time that we can get there," says Sean Surmon, Head of Maties Sport's HP Unit.

Not only was the layout of the HP training area changed for increased capacity, but existing equipment was replaced and more training equipment was procured to cater for more athletes.

The improvements include maintenance on the sport-specific floor, replacing all the old ELEIKO equipment (like weight plates and bars), procuring hi-tech equipment powered by Technogym, Kaizer functional training equipment, specialised equipment for differently-abled athletes, and replacing all the dumbbells with an even bigger collection.

ALUMNUS GETS HIGHEST MARK IN THE WORLD

Alumnus Devin Kruger has won joint first place worldwide in the international Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA) examination.

Having written all the required professional exams over the past 16 months, the exam in Strategic Case Study in February was the last of the CIMA examinations Devin had to take for the professional qualification of Chartered Global Management Accountant.

After matriculating at Glenwood House School in George, he enrolled for the BCom (Management Accounting) programme at Stellenbosch University.

Upon completion of the HonsBCom (Management Accounting) programme in 2017, Devin began his management accounting articles at Moore Stephens Management Services in Stellenbosch.

THULI MADONSELA RECEIVES JUSTICE AWARD

{ NEWS SNIPPETS }

Prof Thuli Madonsela (photo left), the Law Faculty Trust Chair in Social Justice in the Faculty of Law at Stellenbosch University (SU), has received yet another accolade for her work in the pursuit of social justice.

She was honoured with the Leadership for Justice Award from Shared Interest, a major impact investing group founded in New York by anti-apartheid campaigner Donna Katzin.

Thuli received the award on 25 April at Shared Interest's 25th Anniversary Gala in New York, in celebration of 25 years of South Africa's democracy and investing in southern Africa's future.

Shared Interest is a non-profit investment fund that was founded to enhance access to commercial credit for low-income black borrowers. It provides collateral using loan guarantees to move local banks to lend to financially excluded communities to build capacity for smallholder farmers and emerging entrepreneurs.

Named one of *Time* magazine's 100 most influential people in the world in 2014 and



Forbes Africa Person of the Year in 2016, Thuli's work at SU focuses on promoting good governance, justice, and accountability in public life, in addition to teaching constitutional and administrative law.

STAFF SUCCESSES

With an undergraduate nursing programme having been reinstated this year at Stellenbosch University (SU), it is an exciting time for PROF POTIA JORDAN to be at the helm of the Department of Nursing and Midwifery. She started as new executive head of this department in March.

DR MARGRETH TADIE, a lecturer in Process Engineering, and DR DEBRA ROSSOUW, a biotechnologist at SU's Institute for Wine Biotechnology, are two of 30 scientists in Africa to have been selected for the FLAIR (Future Leaders – African Independent Research) research fellowships. They were part of a competitive pool of 700 applicants from across the continent.

JERRY LAKA, Maties Sport's Director of

Support Services, has been elected as the new CUCSA secretary general. He wants to play a role in the development of sport at universities and colleges in South Africa, Africa and the world. CUCSA is made up of the national university and college sports associations of the Africa Zone VI countries, which are Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The former Minister of Higher Education and Training, Naledi Pandor, appointed PROF LESLEY LE GRANGE and PROF YUSEF WAGHID as members of the Council on Higher Education (CHE). Both are Distinguished Professors in the Faculty of Education and say they are honoured to be part of the CHE.

A red-tinted photograph of a mobile hanging with red ribbons and spheres. The mobile is made of thin white strings and features several red ribbons tied in loops, along with red and clear glass spheres of various sizes. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light color. The overall mood is contemplative and artistic.

JOURNEY OF AN ACTIVIST

From starting out as an HIV and Aids activist to becoming the Director of Stellenbosch University's Africa Centre for HIV and Aids Management, Vuyiseka Dubula-Majola's journey has been an inspiring one.

Words ASIPHE NOMBWU

Photo STEFAN ELS





or many people a single event can change the course of their lives. For Vuyiseka Dubula-Majola that event happened in 2001 when she tested HIV-positive. It sparked a journey that has seen her become an inspirational leader in the field of HIV and Aids management.

Moreover, after 17 years of dedicating her life to activism and awareness around HIV and Aids, Vuyiseka, Director of the Africa Centre for HIV/Aids Management at Stellenbosch University (SU), was awarded the Franco-German Prize for Human Rights and Rule of Law in November 2018.

Among her many awards and accolades, Vuyiseka's name can be seen alongside phenomenal South African women, such as Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, Fatima Meer, Caster Semenya, Natalie du Toit and Thuli Madonsela in the book *A to Z of Amazing South African Women*.

Vuyiseka loves sharing the story of how her journey as an activist began. "I was born in Idutywa in the Eastern Cape, grew up in Philippi on the Cape Flats, and at the age of 22 in 2001, out of curiosity, I decided to go for an HIV test. The results came back that I was HIV-positive.

"At the time I was a casual worker at McDonalds, a job that was supposed to help raise funds for my tertiary education.

"I remember how the results of that test crippled me. I sat at home waiting to die, because back then there was no treatment for us poor people."

She says that this was a very difficult period of her life. "We knew nothing about HIV and Aids, except that it kills people. There was no treatment available to poor people."

BROADEN KNOWLEDGE

Two weeks after receiving the news of her test, Vuyiseka was advised by her then counsellor to visit the Doctors without Borders organisation in Khayelitsha, which is where she was introduced to the Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) – and she has not looked back since then.

At the TAC, Vuyiseka became an employee tasked to build the organisation's Prevention and Treatment Literacy Programme, which she led for six years as a programme coordinator for the Western Cape.

She was instrumental in starting the TAC branches in the Klipfontein district in Cape Town. As a strong leader, she was eventually elected as the general secretary of the TAC in 2008, and was re-elected in 2012.

"Through my work with the Treatment Action Campaign, I got a number of opportunities to study and broaden my knowledge. I was particularly interested in anything related to the health sciences. I did not exactly know what I wanted to study but I knew it would have to be in humanities. My first contact with higher education after high school was at Tygerberg College," she says.

Vuyiseka's activism in the TAC and her community work led her to enrol at Unisa for her undergraduate degree in health sciences and social services, majoring in Psychology and later at Stellenbosch University for her postgraduate studies. She is currently studying for a PhD in Development Studies, and is expected to finish by the end of 2019.

AWARENESS

She heads up the Africa Centre for HIV and Aids Management and lectures alongside a small team of skilled and passionate co-workers. The Centre views academic institutions as playing a creative and active role in nourishing social, political and economic transformation. The Centre's role rests on three pillars: academic programmes, research and community mobilisation.

The Africa Centre's aim is to build awareness, knowledge and expertise regarding HIV and Aids through research and community projects. It offers postgraduate courses up to master's degree level. The part-time blended-learning course is open to everyone with an undergraduate degree interested in education around HIV and Aids.

"It is always humbling as an activist to get recognition. The Franco-German Prize for Human Rights and Rule of Law I received is a collective gratitude to those who speak truth to power," she says.

"When I first tested for HIV I thought that was the end of my life, but I challenge myself daily. I have internal battles and I have had to fight with myself and my own internalised stigma. I have done almost everything I thought I could not – even running at the Comrades marathon!"



ABOVE: The modern building where SU's Africa Centre for HIV and Aids Management is housed.

More about

THE AFRICA CENTRE

Towards the end of 2000, South Africa's presidency challenged Stellenbosch University to develop a programme that takes HIV training and capacity building to the managers and labour leaders of the workforce. The rationale behind the challenge was that, regardless of what is done in the community, prevention and care had to be extended to the workplace in order to make a dent in the epidemic. This led to the development of the Postgraduate Diploma in HIV and Aids Management (PDM), first presented in 2001 under the auspices of the Department of Industrial Psychology.

The success of this programme led to the establishment of the Africa Centre for HIV and Aids Management in 2003. Today, the Centre focuses on education, research, and community service related to HIV and Aids management. The Centre offers the most comprehensive postgraduate training programmes on HIV and Aids management in the world, with students from more than 40 countries successfully completing these programmes.

The Centre's diploma and degree programmes are endorsed by many international agencies. The Postgraduate Diploma in the Management of HIV and Aids (PgDip) is designed for people who need the skills to develop and manage programmes related to HIV and Aids. Successful completion of the PgDip can lead to an MPhil degree and then a PhD.



VISION
2040

CEMENT

WELCOME TO MATIES!

Stellenbosch University's welcoming programme for newcomer students ensures that each Matie has a welcoming and transformative student experience.

Words ELBIE ELS

Photos STEFAN ELS

Stories about newcomer students' first experiences on campus abound. Some you laugh about; others are less exciting. This first step into a new environment can play a major role in a student's academic success.

Stellenbosch University (SU) has thought deeply about every aspect of the current welcoming programme. "We would like students to experience that they are accepted here and that they belong here," says Pieter Kloppers, Director of the Centre for Student Communities.

One of SU's goals with the welcoming programme is to prepare students for the next phase of their lives and to make them feel at home in their new environment.

In order to do this, the University adapted aspects of the programme that could make students feel unwelcome.

New experiences were identified that involve all newcomers and that will make them feel welcome. The increasing number of newcomers each year also compelled the University to think differently about how large groups of students can be welcomed on campus.

Most newcomers are often wary of the unknown, and one question that is on everyone's mind is: "Will I make it?"

The ten days of the welcoming programme is a transition period between school and university, and it is a time when newcomers learn about the university culture and practical things, such as finding out where and when your classes are.

SMALLER COMMUNITIES

A welcoming experience at SU encompasses several aspects. One such strategy to make newcomers feel welcome is to have students find their own, smaller community (like a residence or private student organisation, or PSO) within the greater University and for them to experience a feeling of togetherness. The best support for students can be found in these smaller communities.

"It has been found that a good transition period of approximately ten days works best to make someone feel part of a community, but it's not possible to do this in a shorter period," says Pieter. Thereafter students are ready to focus on their classes, without feeling overwhelmed about the new world they are venturing into.

These smaller communities are also put into

context within the greater Matie community by means of events such as the annual welcoming event held at the Danie Craven rugby stadium, where the rector addresses newcomers. Such an occasion has the potential to create that feeling of togetherness among students.

"It's good for newcomers to see thousands of students walking the same path as they are walking. You don't feel so alone, because you are not the only one who is embarking on this journey – you are part of something bigger. It is about the experience of the big welcoming event and who addresses the students, not so much about what is said," explains Pieter.

Over the past ten years, social impact has become an important part of the welcoming programme. On a particular morning, newcomers are introduced to a variety of social impact projects, such as visits to crèches, painting classrooms, or packing lunches.

Moments of amazement – experiences that students will still remember in ten years' time – are created to make them feel at home. At this year's welcoming event, for example, newcomers formed "2019" on the lawn of the Danie Craven rugby field.

DREAM WALK

This year, a Dream Walk was added to the welcoming programme. The rector, newcomers, seniors and staff walked through the streets of the Stellenbosch campus. An event such as this, where a large group of people move together, creates moments of amazement.

Newcomers had the opportunity to write their dreams on paper and hang it on the trees in Victoria Street for all to see – a group activity that makes students feel even more determined to realise their dreams for the future.

At the end of the welcoming period, it was time for the ever-popular "Vensters" street theatre event, for which students rehearse for a week. This helps to build togetherness and makes students feel part of their smaller communities.

The feedback showed that more than 75% of newcomers thought "Vensters" was a pivotal part of the welcoming.

The Monday evening after "Vensters", when seniors are back on campus and classes have started, the first Varsity Cup rugby match for the year is held. Students use this opportunity to show that they are true Maties and attend the game in great numbers, all dressed in maroon.

In addition to helping newcomers adapt to the SU environment, the welcoming programme plays an important role in defining the future academic success of the students.

"It has become clear for us at SU that the things that tie students to the dream are the big experiences, such as being together at the Danie Craven stadium, forming "2019" on the rugby field, participating in the Dream Walk, hanging their dreams on the trees, and experiencing 'Vensters'.

"Many of these experiences are created in such a way that newcomers are excited and amazed about being at Maties, and feel assured that their dreams can become reality.

"Other aspects are created to have educational value and to help them with the practical execution of tasks," says Pieter.

Up until now, there has only been positive feedback. And there is good reason to believe that more students are feeling welcome at Maties.



Watch a video
www.youtube.com/stellenboschuni

MAIN PHOTO (page 18): The "Vensters" street theatre event, for which newcomers rehearse for a week, helps to build a feeling of togetherness.

BELOW: Japhet du Plessis, a BCom student who lives in Huis Visser, hangs his dream for the future on a tree in Victoria Street during the Dream Walk.



An architectural rendering of a modern, multi-story biomedical research building at dusk. The building features a dark, angular design with large windows and several tall, thin chimneys or ventilation stacks on the roof. The sky is a deep blue. In the foreground, there is a parking lot with several cars, including a dark sedan and several light-colored sedans. A grassy area is visible at the bottom of the frame. The overall atmosphere is professional and futuristic.

CENTRE FOR THE FUTURE

*A new Biomedical Research Institute
for Stellenbosch University's Faculty of
Medicine and Health Sciences will advance
cutting-edge research and our learning-
centred approach.*

Words WILMA STASSEN

Drawings RUDOLF RABE ARCHITECTS





ard hats, construction vehicles and cranes have become familiar sights at Stellenbosch University's (SU) Tygerberg Campus.

At the beginning of the year, construction started on a new state-of-the-art Biomedical Research Institute at the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences.

This R1 billion facility, which will be completed in 2022, will be one of the most innovative and advanced biomedical research centres in Africa.

"This facility will help us realise our vision of becoming Africa's leading research-intensive university, globally recognised as excellent, inclusive and innovative, where we advance knowledge in service of society," SU Rector and Vice-Chancellor, Prof Wim de Villiers, said during the sod-turning ceremony for the new research facility.

The Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Prof Jimmy Volmink, added: "The Biomedical Research Institute is set to significantly advance our capacity to undertake world-class research on the leading health problems affecting our people. It will also contribute considerably to building research capability in the African region."

TRAINING

The Institute's main aims will be to investigate diseases that have the greatest impact on communities in South Africa and the rest of Africa, and to translate its discoveries into improving the diagnosis, prevention and treatment of illnesses such as TB, HIV, diabetes, heart disease and neurological disorders.

"Africa bears the brunt of the global burden of disease, with a number of major epidemics colliding across our continent. With one of the top medical faculties in Africa, Stellenbosch University has a huge responsibility to help

lead in the endeavour to ensure healthy lives and wellbeing for all," says Prof Nico Gey van Pittius, the faculty's Vice-Dean: Research, and a professor in molecular biology.

Biomedical teaching, training and research at the faculty has up to now been based in its Physiology and Anatomy Building, which was built in the 1970s. In the four decades since the building has been opened, student numbers have more than trebled and the field of biomedicine has changed considerably.

The Biomedical Research Institute will provide additional space and be on par with the most advanced and sophisticated biomedical research facilities in the world.

The new facility will allow for the immediate expansion of current research activities, and will strengthen research and teaching capacity in fields such as bioinformatics, genomics, anatomy, neurobiology, advanced surgical sciences and biobanking.

RESEARCH

Apart from a range of research laboratories, the new facility will host a bioinformatics hub, electron microscopy laboratories, proteomics and florescent-activated cell sorting laboratories, morphology museum, biorepository, Sunskill laboratory, clinical research unit, and conference facilities.

"When completed, the new Biomedical Research Institute will form a fully integrated, future-focused and superbly organised research complex that matches the best in the world. In several ways, it will even exceed the best the world has to offer in terms of technical sophistication and optimised workflows in a healthy, inspiring and sustainable learning, working and public space," says Eben Mouton, Senior Director: Business Management at the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences.



More about **THE ARCHITECTURE**

These are some of the unique architectural features of and principles used for the new Biomedical Research Institute:

- Sustainability is fundamental to the design of the building's energy and water systems, material selection, emissions, waste management, use of natural light, ventilation and acoustics.
- Flexibility of the configuration, deployment of smart technologies, rainwater harvesting and community access to the facility will all be designed to evolve with the building as the way we do research changes in the future.
- A smart lighting system will detect areas where natural light is strongest and adjust lighting accordingly, thus drawing less electricity from the grid.
- The building will tie into the campus's greywater masterplan, which allows for rainwater harvesting and the use of borehole water. All toilets will be flushed with non-potable water.
- A secure bicycle storage area with adjacent shower facilities will be located in the basement. This will help to encourage staff and students to cycle to work.
- Workstations and laboratory benches will be inviting and inspiring, with outdoor views and access to fresh air and natural lighting where possible.
- A system of negative air pressure will keep hazardous fumes or airborne toxins from flowing out of laboratories and into adjacent areas. A powerful ventilation and filtration plant will continuously draw air out of laboratories and to the top of the building, where it will be filtered and released.



SCIENCE CHANGING LIVES

*At Stellenbosch University, we conduct research
that makes an impact on the world we live in.
Here are a few projects that do just that.*

Words ALEC BASSON

Photos STEFAN ELS

BACTERIA IN GEYSERS

An interdisciplinary study by Stellenbosch University (SU) researchers found that severe pneumonia-causing bacteria may be lurking in our water heaters or geysers. **Dr Wendy Stone (pictured on page 26 with fellow research Dr Tobie Louw)** from SU's Water Institute says the research that she and her colleagues conducted highlights the connection between heating regimes (when and for how long a heater is switched on) and the increase in *Legionella*, specifically the pathogenic species *L. pneumophila*, in geysers.

The researchers wanted to determine whether horizontal electric water heaters or geysers (common in most South African households) provide an environment that is conducive to the growth of *Legionella*, which thrive at

temperatures from 37 to 42°C.

To determine the presence of *Legionella*, Wendy and her colleagues cut open water heaters shortly after they had failed mechanically and collected samples and biofilm (i.e. established communities of bacterial microorganisms) scrapings from inside the heaters. They also used microbiological techniques to assess the presence of *Legionella* at the point-of-use in the tap water.

The results show that the lower surfaces of the heater remaining at temperatures below 45°C create an ideal environment for *Legionella* growth. The water distribution system design, water heater temperature settings and switching habits play a critical role in minimising the risk of *Legionella* growth.



ANTI-GANG LAWS FAIL

One of the main reason why most gangs act with impunity is because of the ineffectiveness of anti-gang legislation. This is one of the key findings of a doctoral study in Criminal Law by **Dr Delano van der Linde**.

Having done a comprehensive analysis of the legislative history of the Prevention of Organised Crime Act (POCA), Delano says that although it has been enacted to combat, for example, organised crime, money laundering and criminal gang activities, it is inadequate to deal with criminal gangs because of several textual, institutional and constitutional shortcomings.

The POCA is substantially similar to the common law and equally ineffective when it comes to dealing with gang activity. As such,

the Act does not add much to the arsenal of common law crimes, such as conspiracy, incitement, and public violence, and the common purpose doctrine that could address group-based criminality.

Delano says another problem with the POCA is that the punishments for gang members are extremely weak – ranging from three to eight years (which can be increased by aggravating factors such as committing gang-related crimes close to schools) or the alternative of a fine.

According to Delano, the POCA's textual, institutional and constitutional shortcomings must be addressed to deal more effectively with criminal gang activity and to protect the accused's constitutional right to a fair trial.

TRACKING POLLEN

Dr Corneile Minnaar (photo left) from the Department of Botany and Zoology developed a novel method to track the pollination process from the first visit by a pollinator to its endpoint – either successfully transferred to another flower's stigma or lost along the way. He uses quantum dots to track the fate of individual pollen grains. Corneile says researchers are unsure where most of the microscopically tiny pollen grains actually land up once they leave flowers. For pollen grains that do reach stigmas, the journey is often unclear. Most plant species, including some food crops, rely on insects for pollination. With insect numbers declining, we need to understand which insects are important pollinators.



Watch a video
www.youtube.com/stellenboschuni

SHORT-TERM MEMORY SKILLS

Grade R learners whose mother tongue isn't English perform just as well as their English-speaking peers when it comes to storing and processing small amounts of information needed for, among others, learning, problem solving and doing calculations, says **Dr Michelle White** from the Department of General Linguistics.

For her doctorate, Michelle investigated the development of Grade R learners' English language skills and the cognitive processes that underlie these skills in a multicultural classroom in an English-medium school.

She says these children only lack the necessary English skills to perform well academically as their working memory or short-term memory skills for holding information that can be processed quickly are on par with that of their peers.

Her study shows that learners with English as home language and their second language peers scored comparably on the working memory tasks throughout the year.

Even though the English home language children were better on all English measures, those with different home languages caught up well, and by the end of the year a couple of the children had almost caught up with the English home language children.

NETWORKS THAT WORK

A chance meeting between two attendees at a conference has developed into a growing research partnership between two African researchers – one from Stellenbosch and one from Cameroon.

Words BIRGIT OTTERMANN

Photo STEFAN ELS





tellenbosch University's (SU) strong engagement on the African continent has resulted in the establishment of bilateral agreements with 26 African higher education institutions. These partnerships, developed and nurtured by SU International's Centre for Collaboration in Africa, have provided many invaluable opportunities and benefits for students and staff over the years.

One such example is Dr Graeme Jacobs (photo), an nGap (New Generation of Academics Programme) senior lecturer and research scientist in the Division of Medical Virology in the Department of Pathology at the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences.

He has enjoyed a fruitful collaboration with a researcher from the University of Yaoundé I in Cameroon since 2014.

"I have been involved in HIV and Aids research since my postgraduate years," says Graeme, who is an SU alumnus (BSc in Molecular and Cellular Biology, honours and master's degrees in Medical Virology) and holds a PhD in Life Sciences (Medical Virology) from the University of Würzburg in Germany.

"My main work focus has been on HIV diversity and resistance in South Africa and Africa – I am interested in how certain resistance-associated mutations influence treatment outcomes."

COLLABORATION

A chance encounter with a Cameroonian researcher at a European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO) meeting on HIV in Stellenbosch in February 2011 has led to a long-term HIV research collaboration for Jacobs.

"I work closely with Dr George Ikomey, an immunology expert from the Centre for the Study and Control of Communicable Diseases (CSCCD) at the Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, University of Yaoundé I, Cameroon. Although our collaboration is mostly on HIV, we have a shared interest in hepatitis, human papillomavirus (HPV), tuberculosis and other infectious diseases," Graeme explains.

"After meeting at the conference in Stellenbosch in 2011, we soon realised that we had very similar research interests. We have since formed a close friendship with constant

communication between us."

What started as a collaboration between two African researchers developed into an active, growing research partnership with joint publications, conference presentations, research visits, capacity building of postgraduate students, and student exchange opportunities.

"Our main objectives are to jointly perform health research in infectious diseases, such as HIV, HPV, hepatitis and tuberculosis, and to build capacity for postgraduate students and promote exchange opportunities. Our most recent work was on testing different antiretroviral treatment regimens for their population, to help with optimal treatment options for infected patients," says Graeme.

"We continue to strive for success through our partnership and continue to jointly supervise postgraduate students. We also strongly encourage our students to apply for exchange opportunities and seek funding to pursue our research and their studies. We would ever have imagined that our partnership would grow this big and go this far!"

RESEARCH VISITS

According to Graeme, SU's formal partnership with the University of Yaoundé I has been instrumental in the success of the research collaboration.

"SU has been extremely supportive, especially through the African Collaboration Grant, allowing research visits for both myself and Dr Ikomey. In addition, students have had opportunities to travel between the institutions, facilitated largely by SU International. This has helped us grow tremendously."

The African partnership has also played an important role in growing Graeme's career as a researcher. "For me as an HIV researcher, it is extremely interesting working in Cameroon. In South Africa, we mostly find HIV-1 subtype C, but in Cameroon (the region many consider the birthplace of HIV-crossover infections from chimpanzees), there are many different recombinant strains of HIV.

"This means, their HIV epidemic looks much different than ours, and we have access to a variety of HIV strains not found elsewhere in the world. One of the main reasons there has been

no forthcoming vaccine against HIV is most likely due to the high genetic variability of the virus itself.

"Thus, having access to multiple strains in the laboratory gives us a chance, for example, to improve research and diagnostic assays, relevant to all HIV strains," Graeme explains.

According to Nico Elema, manager of the Centre for Collaboration in Africa, SU's partnership with the University of Yaoundé I in Cameroon was formalised in November 2013 in a bilateral agreement.

"The University's partnership development often builds on existing academic contacts, as was the case with Drs Jacobs and Ikomey. We strive to create an enabling environment and community for activities with other African countries by providing support and facilitating partnership development, and by offering mobility programmes and mobility grants to help coordinate activities," says Nico.

More about **THE PARTNERSHIP**

The University of Yaoundé I is a public university, located in the Cameroonian capital Yaoundé. The institutional partnership with Stellenbosch University dates back to November 2013. Cooperation between the two institutions include students and staff exchanges, as well as research collaboration.

The collaboration with the University of Yaoundé I is predominantly within the Faculties of Medicine and Health Sciences, Arts and Social Sciences, and Science. The Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences collaborated with the Cameroonian institution mainly in the field of control of communicable diseases.



ENERGY TO FLOURISH

To reduce its energy consumption and impact on the environment, Stellenbosch University has adopted a bold approach to reduce its reliance on coal powered energy to ensure it remains a thriving institution.

Words CANDES KEATING

Photo STEFAN ELS

A sustainable, innovative and future-focused approach will see Stellenbosch University (SU) transform its energy infrastructure through substantial investments in renewable and energy-efficient projects that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption.

Focus will also be placed on the increased use of energy from clean renewable sources, the incorporation of energy-efficient green-building principles when constructing new buildings and campus upgrades, as well as sustainability awareness campaigns among students and staff members.

This ambitious energy transformation is informed by the University's Environmental Sustainability Plan and Sustainable Infrastructural Asset Strategy.

The plan and strategy outlines SU's commitment to limit its impact on the earth's natural resources. It provides a roadmap to reduce its carbon footprint through a more efficient use of resources in order to build a more balanced, resilient, and interconnected university for future generations.

Conceptualised by a multi-disciplinary team of sustainability experts within the core team of the Facilities Management division, the plan is aligned to SU's *Vision 2040* and *Strategic Framework*, and incorporates commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDG), the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 21) framework, and provincial and national legislation.

The plan also supports the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, a global agreement signed in 1987 to protect the stratospheric ozone, and the Kyoto Protocol 1997, an international treaty that commits state parties to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

RENEWAL PROJECT

Nadeem Gafaldien, Director of Property Services at Facilities Management, who spearheads the University's energy transformation, says that this year the University will embark on a crucial energy project that will see its aging medium voltage (MV, between 1 000 volt to 35 kilovolt) electrical infrastructure revamped and upgraded.

This is all thanks to the Campus Renewal Project funding from the SU Council, and a

funding grant from the Department of Higher Education and Training.

This project will have a far-reaching impact on the generation, use and management of energy on all SU campuses. "Over the last 100 years, SU has grown both in size and footprint, while integrating within the town's urban fabric.

"This growth has amplified pressure on the existing and ageing infrastructure, because there has been a continuous demand for more teaching, learning and research training spaces," says Nadeem.

"The result has been that we had to install more municipal electrical points in order to service this additional load. This holds a risk for failure across the ageing electrical infrastructure."

Over the next few months, the University's electrical infrastructure will be replaced with a state-of-the-art smart micro-grid system.

This innovative system mimics a small-scale version of a city-sized centralised electricity system, and allows for the integration of renewable energy technology, such as solar panels, that will facilitate the distribution of electricity across campuses from the supply points to where it is needed.

ENERGY SAVING

The smart micro-grid system will be more reliable and resilient, less dependent on the municipal energy supply, reduce cost, and lower carbon emissions.

Nadeem says the new system will include reduced and consolidated backup generation, while smart meters will allow for improved monitoring and management of the energy demand, production and use at the University.

In preparation for the smart micro-grid system, Facilities Management has completed several sub-projects, such as installing the new intact substation at Coetzenburg and the Danie Craven Stadium, which will address the need for more power and improve the capacity for future growth at Coetzenburg and the Welgevallen experimental farm.

The consolidation of the MV electrical power supply to the Drama Department, Law Faculty and Arts and Social Sciences precinct has been completed, reducing the number of municipal supply points from two to one at the Arts and Social Sciences Building.

The consolidation of the electrical supply

More about

SAVING ENERGY

Numerous initiatives have been implemented at Stellenbosch University to save energy. Here are some of them:

- Light bulbs are being replaced by energy-saving bulbs.
- Smart metering is done of the energy consumed in all buildings.
- Where appropriate and practical, energy-saving cooling systems have been implemented, for example, in the main building at the Tygerberg campus.
- The Polymer, Facilities Management and IT buildings use vegetation and special screens to reduce heat in buildings.
- Natural resources, such as trees, are planted in strategic areas to limit heat islands in the landscape.

of the Van Der Sterr Building into the Neelsie supply has also been completed.

The rollout of the smart micro-grid system will also add to initiatives that have already contributed to significant energy savings, such as an external street lighting plan that has improved the lighting and reduced consumption, and the installation of energy-saving bulbs in academic buildings and residences.

Motion sensors, which turn on lights when there is movement, have also been installed in six buildings at the Stellenbosch campus and in the elevators of the main building at the Tygerberg campus.

Later this year, a deep water lake cooling system will come into operation at the Bellville Park campus. Once fully operational, this innovative system will reduce the Bellville Park campus electricity consumption by 80% and reduce carbon emission.

Nadeem says the University's approach to sustainability is not just about meeting the UN SDG and COP 21 goals, but by fulfilling its mission of making a positive impact on local, continental and global communities by leading the way in energy transformation.

"Universities have a moral obligation to ensure that societies become sustainable. As places of innovation and learning, we must demonstrate how this can be done," says Nadeem.



Watch a video
www.youtube.com/stellenboschuni



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OUR
ALUMNI

Carla MacKenzie

Radio and TV presenter Carla MacKenzie's career in broadcasting started when, as a Maties student, she collected a prize she had won at the office of the local community radio station, MFM.

The station manager asked her to say a few words and suggested that she should consider a career in broadcasting. For Carla, a BA student and accomplished hockey player, this was a defining moment.

She joined MFM and presented, among others, the lunch show and the afternoon drive show.

"While I was at MFM, a Cape Town radio station, Good Hope FM, approached me to read the news. I started working in commercial radio and got a call from Johannesburg soon afterwards with an offer to join Jacaranda FM."

Carla, who grew up in Stellenbosch, exchanged the Boland mountains and vineyards for the City of Gold in 2015. A year after she had joined Jacaranda FM, she was approached

by KykNET and SuperSport to present the TV programmes *FLITS* and *#chatNOU*. She was also involved in broadcasts of the Varsity Cup rugby competition, SuperSport rugby challenge and Craven Week rugby tournament.

She is currently a presenter for the KykNET & Kie programme *KLOP (Ko, Laat Ons Praat)*, she presents the SA Top 20 programme on Jacaranda FM, and is also the producer of the weekly breakfast show.

The broadcasting industry's long hours pose the biggest challenge for her. "I get up at 04:00 every morning. A radio programme is three hours long, but some days you spend up to 12 hours in the studio to ensure that the next day's programme is better than the previous one."

For relaxation, she makes sure to go for a sunset drive with a playlist of her favourite music every day.

"I will do this until fuel becomes unaffordable," she jokes.

– Pia Nänny





Keet van Zyl

After many aptitude tests that didn't point in any clear career direction, Keet van Zyl decided to study Accounting. The reason? A Bachelor of Accounting was one of the most difficult degrees to qualify for and he always loved a challenge.

His parents both studied at Stellenbosch University (SU) and convinced him to do the same, saying that he will get "something more than just a degree" at Stellenbosch.

"I was intrigued enough about this 'something more', so I decided to give it a go."

Keet graduated in 1997 and became a Chartered Management Accountant. He went on to complete his MBA and has also studied intellectual property law..

Keet matriculated in Vereeniging and saw Stellenbosch for the first time when his parents took him there for his studies.

"Standing on the lawn of Simonsberg residence, parents gone, it suddenly struck me that I didn't know a soul in Stellenbosch. I was half excited about carving out a brand new life, and half scared to death.

"But the friendships that I formed playing

touch rugby on that very same lawn, soon brought about a new spirit that gave me the tenacity to thrive through some tough times."

He later found that the "something more than just a degree" was his wife, Melissa.

In 2010, after a long corporate career, he co-founded Knife Capital (with another Matie, Eben van Heerden) to continue the active management of the South African portfolio of investments of Here Be Dragons (HBD, of Mark Shuttleworth) and raise third-party funds for venture capital investments.

"We combine knowledge, networks and funding to accelerate the international expansion of entrepreneurial businesses that achieved a product or market fit in South Africa."

Ethics, integrity and awesomeness are important values to him.

"Interacting with the most interesting and eccentric people that make a positive dent in the universe with new disruptive innovations is what I enjoy most about my work.

"I truly believe that entrepreneurship is the solution to South Africa's job creation challenges."

– Elbie Els

Farai Mubaiwa

Accounting and History were Farai Mubaiwa's favourite subjects at school and she chose to study Accounting for the sake of job security and because her parents liked it. However, while studying Accounting, she realised that she will have job security after her studies, but not a career that would allow her to make an impact on Africa.

During her studies, Farai, who holds BAccounting and BComm Management Accounting Honours degrees from Stellenbosch University (SU), was involved in many aspects of student leadership and served as the Speaker of the Student Parliament in her second year.

Thereafter, she was part of the House Committee of the Sonop Residence and was also a member of the Student Representative Council (SRC), where she led the Women Empowerment Portfolio.

She worked as a strategy and operations consultant at Deloitte, and went to King's College London to pursue a master's degree in the political economy of emerging markets through funding from the First Rand Scholarship.

On returning to South Africa, she interned at the South African Institute of International Affairs, where she did youth policy and climate change work.

She then started a career in international development by working at the Aurum Institute, a leading TB and HIV Research Institute, as a junior project manager.

She loves working with the youth. "I love the interaction, hearing people's stories and seeing what I can do to help contribute to the rise of the African continent around us. I do the work that I do because it contributes to a greater Africa. It is about how I as an individual can work in collaboration with others in order to allow for this growth and change that needs to occur so that Africa can reach its greatest potential."

Farai's goal in life is to be part of creating a rising and prosperous Africa.

"If there is one thing that I have learnt from the powerful women in my life, it is that resilience is key. It is okay to fall but you need to get back up again," she says.

– Elbie Els





Thuthuka Sibisi

Over time, the Drakensberg Boys Choir has established itself as an incubator for a lot of renowned artists.

One such success story is Thuthuka Sibisi, a celebrated young choirmaster, musical director, composer, visual artist and physical performer.

"Being able to attend Drakensberg really served as a catalyst to the artist I am today," recalls this talented 30-year-old, who was selected as one of the *Mail & Guardian* top 200 Young South Africans last year.

This former Stellenbosch University BMus graduate reckons his professional career began when he was just 12 years old as a result of having to perform for large audiences weekly, in addition to annual local and international tours.

"To this day, I find myself constantly using the tools I learned then. Albeit becoming more distilled, they remain central to my practice – from rehearsal preparation to production and performance."

One of the most remarkable aspects of Thuthuka – who recently returned from attending a residency in New York at the

prestigious Juilliard School in Manhattan – is his ability to create an ongoing conversation between classical music elements, with more modern undertones and African influences.

"What I create is a product of my lived experience as a young black African male in the age of the internet. Whether on a conscious or subconscious level, I make sense of the world I inhabit through art. "In doing this, I concern myself with constantly pushing against the status quo in terms of what names certain forms are given. I'd like to think I revel in such an understanding that certain 'borders' just don't exist."

He has had the opportunity to be involved with several high-calibre international productions, which included opportunities to collaborate with renowned artists such as William Kentridge and Philip Miller.

"Working as a collaborative artist suits me best, and this too adds to my process; it becomes a give and take not only with the environment or thematic material I'm working with, but also the people in the room I may find myself working with."

– Steyn du Toit

Camilla Carboni

One often hears that fresh content and good copy is key to establishing a successful online presence. However, with all the buzz out there today – especially when it comes to social media, which churns out information 24/7 – contributing quality content has become more critical than ever before.

So says marketer, copywriter, coach and best-selling author Camilla Carboni, adding that, because ideas and content are for the most part not new, the trick is to find a way to deliver content in a new way – a way that's unique to you.

Over the past two decades, this former Matie has established herself as one of the leaders in her field and has even coined a popular marketing term called "Create-The-Dream".

"This term speaks to the power of experience marketing. Having had the incredible opportunity of working with global resort conglomerates to increase their client acquisitions through online marketing and curated copywriting, I realised the importance of selling the dream of the experience being offered to the client."

Thinking back at her time spent studying at Stellenbosch, Camilla reveals that she has so many incredible memories that she's not sure where to begin.

"What comes to mind is the beauty of the campus, the autumn leaves lining Victoria Street, 'Vensters', the endless fun at Nemesia, happily translating pages of Afrikaans notes into English, so that I could study in my first-language.

"Then there was meeting friends for lunch at the Neelsie, heading to 8-o'clock classes after working until 03:00 at the Drama Department, meeting with the Maties Film Society between classes, having the honour of being accepted to attend the University of Iowa on an International Student Exchange, and, finally, graduating with my master's degree."

What lies ahead for this international go-getter? "Right now I've got several copywriting and marketing consultation projects lined up through my company (and alter ego). I also have a new book and digital courses in the works ... so stay tuned!"

– Steyn du Toit







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Each of our five flexible spaces offers an affordable, high-character alternative to other commercial offerings in and around Stellenbosch.

The historic front foyer with its double-volume ceiling and dramatic woodwork accommodates 150 guests in comfort and style. It is the ideal function room for a book launch, new product release or important media briefing. Seating can be arranged to suit the function and number of guests.

The Lecture Theatre seats 40 attendees in classic lecture room style, with fixed desks and upright chairs, a podium, a lectern, a retractable projection screen and a data projector. The room is wired for stereo sound and cable microphone at the lectern. Internet is also available for clients from within the university. The Museum Courtyard is a novel venue idea. Perfect for all fresco functions such as a cocktail event, a traditional braai or a wine tasting. Can host up to 200 guests.

The back Foyer is a functional, elongated space, highly recommended as a food preparation space or serving area for functions taking place in one of the other venues. It could also be put to great use as a mini-exhibition room.

All of the venues offer a choice of audio-visual equipment, tables, chairs, podium and sound. The University Museum does not offer catering but recommends catering companies contracted to the University.



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STELLENBOSCH
UNIVERSITY

100
1918 • 2018

CAMPUS LIFE



THE ART OF REDRESS

Through a process of visual redress, Stellenbosch University is changing its campus into an even more welcoming space for all who live and work there. Here is a series of photos that tells the story.

Words CANDES KEATING

Photos STEFAN ELS



At Stellenbosch University (SU) transformation is an intentional and structured process of profound change of the University's places, people and programmes.

Visual redress is one of these processes. This initiative is focused on changing the University's landscape in an attempt to remove offensive symbols and introduce new visual symbols that point to a shared history, diverse stories and public spaces that are welcoming to all.

The visual redress process, which is led by SU's Division for Social Impact and Transformation, was launched several years ago and much progress has been made to create student- and staff-friendly living and work spaces that conform to the needs of a diverse group of students, staff and other stakeholders.

An art sculpture titled *The Circle* (pictured on the previous page) features 11 figures of

past, current and future South African women icons, and has been installed on the Rooiplein on the main campus.

The women represented are Krotoa/Eva, the Khoi ancestress of many families in South Africa; Prof Thuli Madonsela, former Public Protector and the current Law Trust Chair of Social Justice at SU; the anti-apartheid activists Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, Fatima Meer and Lilian Ngoyi; actress Quanita Adams; author and poet Antjie Krog; Wimbledon wheelchair tennis player Kgothatso Montjane; artist and activist Zanele Muholi; and hip-hop artist Dope Saint Jude. The eleventh anonymous woman represents all the other women's voices who are invited to participate in the discourse.

The project was curated by Stephané Conradie from SU's Department of Visual Arts and the sculptures were manufactured by Jacques Buys from Stellenbosch Art Foundry.



TALKING BENCHES: Welcoming phrases, words and expressions in 15 South African languages and language communities have been engraved onto benches located on the Rooiplein at the Stellenbosch campus. The benches are used daily by students, staff and visitors to the campus and represent spaces where people meet, interact and work together.



A STAGE FOR ALL: SU honoured the legacy of award-winning poet and playwright Adam Small, by renaming the revamped theatre complex at the Drama Department after him. The theatre complex was established in 1965 by the then rector, Prof HB Thom, and although it is not named after him anymore, the history of this theatre complex is contextualised and outlined on a plaque erected at the building.

MAPPING HISTORY: A map of the neighbourhood Die Vlakte was installed at the entrance of the Arts and Social Sciences building, which was built on the grounds where families from Die Vlakte were forcibly removed under the Group Areas Act in the 1960s. The area stretches between Victoria, Bird and Joubert streets and Banhoek Road, and was home to 3 700 coloured people who were relocated to Ida's Valley and Cloetesville.



Watch a video
www.youtube.com/stellenboschuni

100 YEARS OF STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY: In 2018, SU commemorated its Centenary, and acknowledged and apologised for its role in the injustices of South Africa's past, committing itself to the ideal of an inclusive, world-class university in and for Africa. This statement – in Afrikaans, English and isiXhosa – has been placed on the walls adjacent to the SU Library on the Stellenbosch campus.





20 years YOUNG

From a night of passion for literature to an arts festival bursting at the seams with creativity – this has been the journey of the Stellenbosch University Woordfees, the twentieth instalment of which was held in Stellenbosch in March.

Words DANIE MARAIS
Photos JEREMEO LE CORDEUR

On 17 March 2000, the organisers of the first-ever Stellenbosch University (SU) Woordfees hoped to attract between 330 and 430 people to what was then known as the HB Thom Theatre (today called the Adam Small Theatre Complex) for “A Night of passion” for Afrikaans literature. The turn-out was beyond their wildest dreams – more than 1 000 people attended and the theatre was bursting at its seams.

Among the word artists who graced the stage on this balmy night between seven in the evening and seven the next morning were Ronnie Belcher, Stef Bos, André P Brink, Floris Brown, Ronel de Goede, Philip de Vos, Abraham de Vries, Ingrid de Kok, Clinton du Plessis, Julian de Wette, Diana Ferrus, Willem Fransman, Michiel Heyns, Nicole Holm, Leonard Koza, Mncedi Mbambo, Petra Müller, Elias Nel, Gert Vlok Nel, Waldimar Pelser, Henning Pieterse, Soli Philander, Niël Rademan, a company of reel dancers, Loit Sôls, Lina Spies, Francois Toerien, Marius Titus, Marlene van Niekerk and Tyrone Appollis, who wrote a poem for the event:

*... my pen teken bloed op 'n blom
en my bakkie soen soetsuur
in die nag van passie.*

(Loosely translated as: *... my pen draws blood on a flower / and my girl's kisses are sweet and sour / in the night of passion.*)

According to Prof Dorothea van Zyl, who was the director of the SU Woordfees from 2000 to 2014, the main objective of the festival was to “promote Afrikaans literature and arts through an inclusive festival, and in the process inject a new vitality into authors and artists, the book industry and arts”.

ARTS CALENDAR

This objective has since been realised completely. What started 20 years ago as an initiative of the Department Afrikaans-Dutch at SU under Dorothea's guidance, has now grown into a ten-day arts festival and one of the leading events on the national arts and culture calendar.

This year's SU Woordfees boasted more than 600 contributors. Approximately 3 500 artists were in action in 483 single-line offerings at 64 venues, which included 90 book discussions, 80



conversations, 22 festival debuts on the drama programme, 52 concerts (contemporary music), 28 classical music performances, 12 stand-up comedy shows and a film festival screening 10 full-length movies, 10 documentaries and 20 free short films.

More than 1 000 productions were offered and the 2019 festival had the best attendance by students and local Stellenbosch residents ever. Around 5 000 people went to listen to the free conversations and approximately 70 000 people visited the festival.

The 2019 festival showed a 10% increase in ticket sales and a 15% increase in monetary value in comparison to 2018.

The cherry on top at this year's highly successful twentieth SU Woordfees was Toyota becoming the new co-name sponsor. Saartjie Botha, who has been director of the SU Woordfees and WOW Project since 2015, is very excited about the future of the festival and this new partnership with one of South Africa's iconic brands.

“Our audiences are open-hearted, open-minded, open to new experiences and



MAIN PHOTO (page 58): A scene from *In Slavenhuis 39*, which was performed at this year's SU Woordfees and is written by Herschelle Benjamin, an SU master's degree student in drama. The story revolves around four coloured students' experiences as Maties. Herschelle and the cast won the WoordTROfee 2019 award for best upcoming artists.

LEFT: A scene from *Large Asseblief?*, which was directed by Mercy Kannemeyer, an SU master's degree student in drama.



ABOVE: The cover of the first SU Woordfees programmebook in 2000.

adventurous. The festival is committed to contributing to social impact and audience development, stabilisation of the arts industry and the development of Afrikaans as a creative and inclusive language – 75% of our audience is indeed Afrikaans. Having a sponsor such as Toyota on board unlocks many more opportunities.

"We want to be a platform for artistic excellence; we want to develop new audiences and call upon new voices. In order to achieve this, we should not only be a ten-day festival, but we should be actively working and developing new artists and new opportunities throughout the year."

PROGRESS

Saartjie further emphasises the important role of the WOW empowerment project, which was launched in 2003 and has since grown in partnership with the SU Woordfees.

"The WOW project is essential for the growth and progress of the festival. Not only does it create new audiences and new opportunities for learners and budding voices, but it also helps to

broaden our existing audiences."

She also considers the management of the SU Choir as a great asset for the festival.

"The privilege of managing SU's choir positions us in the centre of a microcosm of student life because the members of the choir come from the different faculties of the University. This offers us the unique opportunity to move towards the student community within an artistic environment. We are grateful for this," says Saartjie.

The 2020 SU Woordfees will be held from 6 to 15 March 2020.



IN THE FAST LANE

*The newly upgraded Coetzenburg Athletic
Stadium puts Maties Sport at Stellenbosch
University in a league of its own.*

Words PIA NÄNNY

Photo STEFAN ELS

After a multi-million rand upgrade of the stadium facilities, including an A-grade track and state-of-the-art lighting, Stellenbosch University's (SU) Coetzenburg Athletic Stadium is firmly placed as an international athletics venue.

The Coetzenburg Athletics Stadium began as a simple athletics track and pavilion in 1932 and was first upgraded in the 1940s. At that time, the student newspaper *Die Matie* reported that Stellenbosch had one of the "best athletics tracks in the country". The first synthetic track was laid in 1974.

The provision of appropriate facilities is vital for the development of sport – especially high-performance sport – at universities.

Jerry Laka, Maties Sport's Director: Support Services, is responsible for overseeing the maintenance and upgrading of facilities at Maties Sport.

"In line with SU's commitment to excellence, Maties Sport's vision is to provide excellent sport facilities with sufficient capacity to ensure access to all students, staff members, and the Stellenbosch community at large. The ultimate goals are to optimise usage and operate in an efficient, safe and equitable manner.

PLANNING

"We want to foster excellence in both the academic and sport performances of talented student-athletes and promote social cohesion and engagement in an active lifestyle among students and staff. Our University is part of the town and therefore it is important to provide facilities that also contribute to the town's development, ultimately making Coetzenburg and Stellenbosch a sporting destination of choice for local and international athletes," says Jerry.

The recent upgrades were part the first phase of the overall project.

"The discussions and planning for these upgrades started in 2015 and included the development of a seven-year facilities upgrade programme supported by the University's senior management. All stakeholders were consulted during the planning phase to ensure that we could align this plan with the University's master plan and Stellenbosch Municipality's development plans.

"To build world-class facilities, we needed to

look at international benchmarks. I'm very happy that we could complete these improvements in SU's centenary year (2018)," adds Jerry.

This world-class facility was made possible thanks to ongoing and collaborative interventions, planning and execution between Maties Sport and Facilities Management.

The upgrades provide athletes with five long jump pits, two javelin run-ups, three pole vault areas, two high jump areas and a full athletics track. Indoor upgrades include a stadium club house; a conference room; ladies' and men's locker rooms; admin offices; fresh facilities for physiotherapists; referees and players; entrance turnstiles; a press box and a time-keeping box.

LIGHTING

Coetzenburg is a popular off-season training venue for international athletes and over the years Olympic and Paralympic medallists and world champions have trained and competed at the stadium.

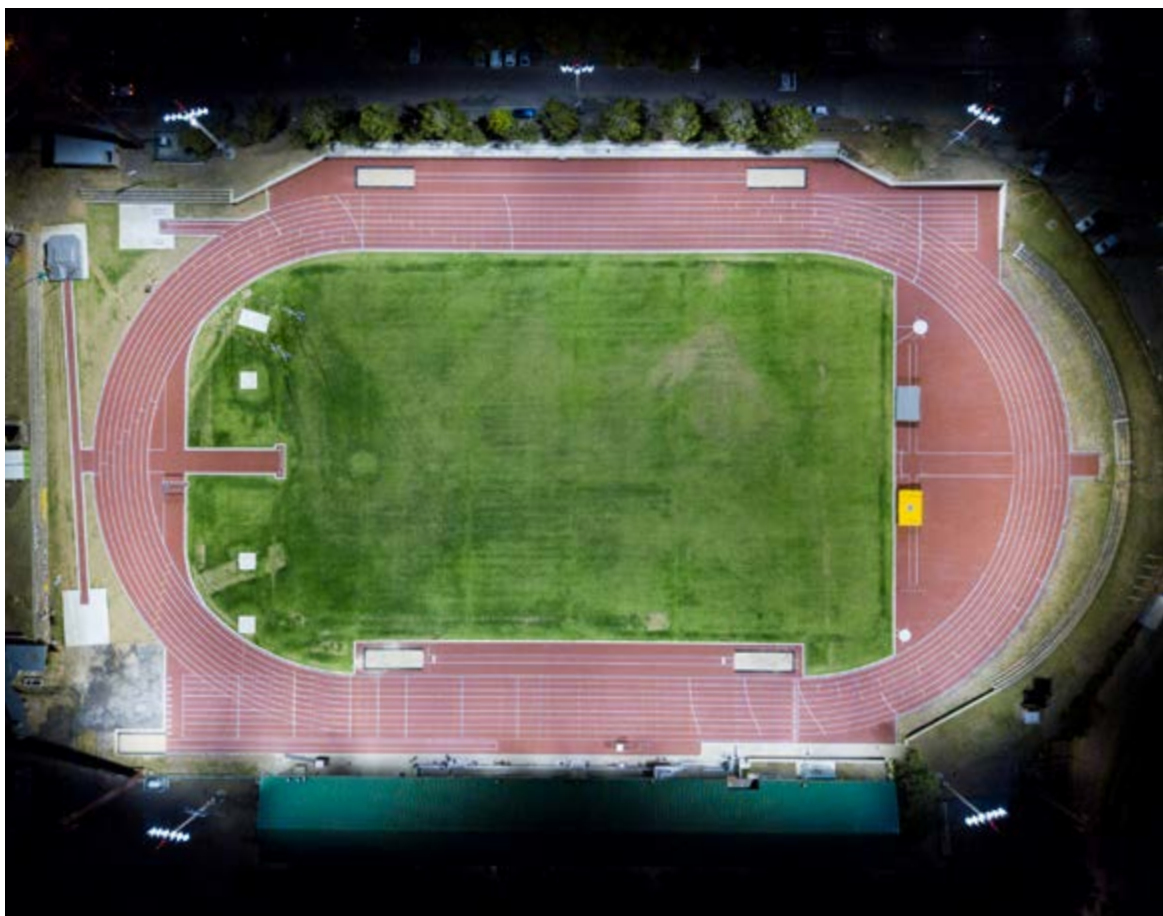
More than 200 international athletes from countries such as Germany, Spain, Switzerland and the Netherlands made use of the facilities at Coetzenburg in December and January.

Since the beginning of the year, several events have been hosted at the facility, including the Puma School of Speed Athletics, Varsity Athletics, the University Sport South Africa (USSA) championships, and the SASAPD National Championships for physically disabled athletes.

Justine Palframan – Olympic competitor, winner of two World Student Games medals and one of Maties Athletics' most experienced athletes – was happy to return to Coetzenburg after the upgrades were completed.

"It is a beautiful track – nice and hard and really fast. The resurfacing also helps with the block grip. The change rooms, office space and club house are much more modern too. The mountains make Stellenbosch one of the most beautiful tracks to run on. It is great to have all the athletes back on the track – it has lifted the team spirit and brought different training groups closer together," she says.

While the track is breath-taking in its Winelands setting, it is the lighting that will take Coetzenburg to new international status. Global sports stadium lighting specialists Maritz Electrical was commissioned to install the Musco LED lighting system that compares



ABOVE: An aerial photo of the new Coetzenburg athletic track as it looks at night with the new lighting.

Photo MARITZ ELECTRICAL

to Twickenham rugby stadium, Arsenal's Emirates Stadium and St George's Park Cricket Grounds.

According to Warren Williams, technical head at Maritz Electrical, this is the first LED system installed at an athletics stadium in South Africa.

Installation of the masts took precise planning to ensure that all areas of the track and field are lit to the required lux levels for athletes and broadcasters (for high-definition broadcasting) and to enhance the spectator experience.

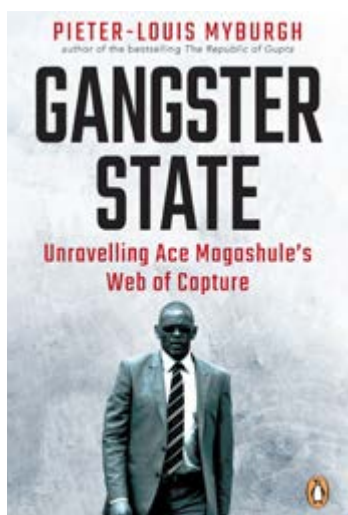
Ilhaam Groenewald, Chief Director of Maties Sport, has indicated that the development of business models for the Coetzenburg athletics facility – including development, participation, high-performance and commercial opportunities – will be a focus area in the next five years.

"The University is investing millions of rands in its pursuit of sporting excellence and we are achieving wonderful results. The challenge now is to determine how we can continue to build, upgrade and maintain facilities for the next 100 years," explains Ilhaam.

FOR THE BOOKSHELF

*Probably the most-talked about book of the year so far is
Matie alumnus Pieter-Louis Myburgh's Gangster State:
Unravelling Ace Magashule's Web of Capture.*

Words FRIEDA LE ROUX



South Africans just can't resist a good political thriller, and this meticulously researched book tells of a truth stranger, and more riveting, than fiction.

Pieter-Louis Myburgh was working on some investigative pieces regarding Ace Magashule's alleged corruption for News24, but he soon realised that the subject matter was too vast. "So in April 2018, I quit my job, secured some funding from the Taco Kuiper Fund for investigative journalism and embarked on a full-time research and writing project that culminated in the book *Gangster State*."

He says the format of a book allowed him to "unpack corrupt networks and individuals in a

very detailed manner". He also thinks a book is punchier: "Considering the variety of sub-themes and schemes one can address in book format, the impact is also much stronger."

He admits that he did, at times, look over his shoulder.

"Yes, all investigative journalists do have that nagging fear that our work could get us in harm's way. I think the pre-publication research and writing phase is potentially more hazardous."

With the book now in the public domain, Pieter-Louis feels safer, saying, "It would be immensely stupid for someone implicated in *Gangster State* to now do something rash and irresponsible."

He also feels strongly about not letting fear interfere with his work. "South Africa is a constitutional democracy. The media, civil society organisations and the public in general are absolutely within their rights to pursue issues that are in the public interest and to hold the powerful to account."

But where did his interest in investigative journalism originate?

"I saw the film adaptation of *All the President's Men* when I was quite young, and I later read Woodward and Bernstein's epic account of how they basically unseated the most powerful man in the world through their dogged investigative efforts to expose Richard Nixon's corrupt office.

"I think that planted the seed," explains Pieter-Louis.

Penguin Random House, R290

THE SNOW SLEEPER

by Marlene van Niekerk

Stellenbosch University's Prof Marlene van Niekerk investigates the origin of stories: where do they come from, and why? In four long short stories, four different narrators are confronted with their own limiting thinking by very unexpected people. What adds to the reading experience, is the way in which the four stories link, with characters or events occurring more than once.

One cannot help but wonder how much of the self the author has written into "The Swan Whisperer". Here, a lecturer in creative writing receives a number of letters from a student. And where, at first, the student seems to be ill-informed, it turns out that the writings challenge the lecturer to rethink her own literary convictions.

When a clockmaker stands up to deliver a eulogy at his best friend's funeral, we soon learn more about the deceased's (a writer) voyeuristic obsessions. The fact that a clockmaker, who "deals" in time in his day job, speaks at a burial, makes one aware of the clock ticking for all.

The book took its title from a story of a fieldworker who interviews homeless people. She struggles and is confronted with various ethical issues. But when a charismatic vagrant challenges her, she realises she has to face her own grief. How much of a friend she really was, one wonders after finishing "The Friend".

Or is the way in which politics – also of living – infringe all our lives too complicated to hold against the narrator?

Human & Rousseau, R270



KOSHUIS

compiled by Erns Grundling

For someone who never attended boarding school or lived in a university residence, Erns Grundling is very nostalgic about this part of growing up.

"I think hostels and residences are very important spaces, especially in South Africa in today's times. They create an environment where people can notice each other and live and study together."

And about his status as outsider: "I think there is something to say for the outside perspective. I learned so much from all the wonderful contributions that I received. About the camaraderie and student fun, but also about the challenges."

Erns and his publisher, Hester Carstens, approached a few of the authors whose contributions were eventually included in the volume. But he also posted an invitation on the Facebook page Lekkerleesboekrak. The final book, in Afrikaans, consists of 47 contributions from 40 former hostel residents.

"I wanted to cast the net wide and requested stories about boarding school hostels and university residences. I received a wide variety."

Some of the hostels mentioned in the book include Hombré at North-West University, Dagbreek at SU, Beyers Hostel at Outeniqua High School in George, the hostel of Gill Primary School in Somerset East, Huis Boekenhout at the University of Pretoria (Tukkies), and the Edinburgh University in Scotland.



Queillerie, R260

Also read Erns Grundling's column on page 78.

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INVOLVED



A GIFT OF EDUCATION

A father's gift from his three children has changed the course of Matie Raymond Botete's life. Today, he is a junior lecturer at Stellenbosch University, studying towards a PhD.

Words SONIKA LAMPRECHT

Photo STEFAN ELS





When Franz Müller turned 80 in 2013, his children gave him the gift of education – not for himself, but in the form of a bursary in his name.

Six years later, at Stellenbosch University's (SU) April 2019 graduation ceremony, Franz had the pleasure to experience how this gift has changed the life of Raymond Botete, the first recipient of the Franz and Waltraud Müller bursary.

Franz and his wife have been spending winters in Somerset West in the Western Cape for the past 20 years. "We feel very connected to South Africa, particularly the Cape region, and we are convinced that the country has a great future. We always wanted to give something back to this beautiful country and its people."

Knowing this, Franz's daughter Regula Müller Hönger, and her siblings, Felix and Marc, decided to establish the Franz and Waltraud Müller bursary to give their father "something that would last longer and have more of an impact than the usual presents".

Regula says, "My father has always been very generous in supporting people, so we felt this would be the ideal gift. Stellenbosch is a well-known university and was thus an obvious choice."

And Franz was delighted. "I felt overcome with joy. I was very pleased that the kids thought of such a wonderful gift. That they believed in a good cause and thought about giving a gift that would – in my name – do something good for somebody."

GRATEFUL

For the past seven years that somebody has been Raymond Botete. Originally from Limpopo province, Raymond matriculated from Makgofe High School in 2009. After school Raymond enrolled for BSc Geology for one year at the University of Limpopo, then took a gap year before coming to SU in 2012 to study Mechanical Engineering.

Raymond comes from a disadvantaged background. His mother was unemployed and his family struggled to make ends meet. "The bursary was a huge relief to me financially, and for that I am very grateful for the support that Franz and Waltraud Müller have given me."

Raymond, who is currently a Junior Lecturer at SU, graduated with his Engineering degree in 2016 and enrolled for a master's degree in Mechanical Engineering, doing research

on composite manufacturing. Throughout his studies the Müller family has taken a keen interest in Raymond and his progress.

"We are all very glad that we could contribute to Raymond's education and are very proud of his success – after all, it was he who had to do all the work," says Regula. "My siblings and I had the chance to meet him in person during our visits to South Africa and enjoyed getting to know him very much. We are glad that our gift made a difference in his life and the life of his family."

AMBITIOUS

Franz echoes this sentiment: "I am very proud of his achievements. Raymond is ambitious and determined. He put a lot of effort into his studies. We have a very personal relationship with him and I see with great satisfaction that the children's gift has made such a positive impact on his life."

But Raymond is not done studying just yet and is currently working towards a PhD. He says, "Despite pressure from my family to find a job, the bursary is giving me the opportunity to study further while I consider my career options. I always wanted to become a professor and I therefore chose the academic stream so that I can also help other students reach their dreams."

More about DONATIONS

You could help the next generation of Matie students succeed by making a donation to your alma mater – either by cheque, direct deposit, credit card, debit order, electronic funds transfer (EFT) or online. Please contact our Development and Alumni Relations Division for further information on the projects that you can support. Phone +27 (0)21 808 4020 or e-mail ontwikkeling@sun.ac.za.

HOW TO GIVE

There are several ways in which you can contribute to a variety of projects and bursaries at Stellenbosch University.

TYPES OF SUPPORT

You can determine when and how your gift to Stellenbosch University (SU) should be used. It could be provided for current projects or invested to provide a lasting legacy for generations to come. Current-use gifts of any size can be made to the academic initiative, strategic objective, research programme, faculty, student residence or society of your choice.

MYSCHOOL

Swipe your MySchool card whenever you shop at any of the participating retailers nationwide and a percentage of the transaction will be donated to SU.

ONLINE

Stellenbosch University has a new easy-to-use online giving platform where you can make a contribution. Visit this website: <https://web-apps.sun.ac.za/donor-contribution-gift/#/home>

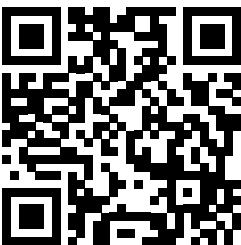
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Scan this QR code with your cell phone to make a contribution to a fellow Matie. Donations received through SnapScan go to our Maties4Maties Bursary Fund. 18A tax certificates are issued on request.



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Individual and corporate donors to Stellenbosch University receive tax benefits under South African income tax law. In the United States and United Kingdom there are options for donating to Stellenbosch University in a tax-efficient way. The full rand value of a gift in your will is also deductible in determining your net estate duty liability. Contact Hugo Steyn on +27 (0)21 808 3615 or e-mail hugos@sun.ac.za.



ALWAYS A MATIE

Stellenbosch University has always encouraged students to acknowledge the increasingly important role of the arts in our world. Meet two exciting alumni artists in the second instalment of the Always a Matie video series.

Words JULIE GRAHAM

Photo JOANNA HIGGS

Stellenbosch University (SU) is renowned for facilitating dreams for its current students and alumni – and motivating growth in the arts globally. Two exceptional Maties, who are bringing Africa to the world through art, are painter and sculptor Elena Agostinis Patterson (photo) and musician Thuthuka Sibisi.

Their journeys are showcased in the newly-launched second instalment of the University's Always a Matie video series.

The town of Tannersville, located in the Northern Catskill Mountains in New York, went from drab to dazzling thanks to South African painter and sculptor, Elena. After completing a degree in Fine Art at SU and relocating to the United States, Elena discovered that "you can take the artist out of Africa, but you can't take Africa out of the artist".

She transformed her grey house in the mountains into a plethora of bright colours and patterns that reflected her love for the abstract, and her deep passion for her home country. It was not long after that that the *New York Times* got wind of this.

"At that point the town was in shambles, really. People were leaving and it was becoming a sort of a ghost town. There was no money to restore anything, and something had to be done," recalls Elena.

"The mayor told me that there was a foundation that had been awarded a government grant to revamp the facades of the buildings along the main street." Through her expertise as an artist, Elena transformed the town of Tannersville, creating what a resident referred to as "an element of global sophistication that we were never able to create on our own without her".

Both Elena and Thuthuka owe their successes to the opportunities afforded to them by SU and being a Matie is something that is ingrained in both their lives.

"My entire life has been based on my schooling at Stellenbosch. Being a Matie has been a life-long presence in my life," says Elena.

Thuthuka adds: "Being a Matie is a feeling of being home."

● **Read more about Thuthuka Sibisi and his work in the field of art and music on page 46.**

More about **THE VIDEO SERIES**

In 2015, the Development and Alumni Relations Division at Stellenbosch University embarked on a journey to create a series of documentary short films in which current and former Maties share their experiences. This series uses the medium of film to show Maties in all of their rich diversity of viewpoints, interests and experiences.

The second instalment of this video series was recently launched and shines the spotlight on our world-renowned SU Choir, visionary leadership, disability and access to education.

Watch the Always a Matie videos at <http://www.matiesalumni.com>



Watch a video
www.youtube.com/stellenboschuni



COME HOME TO MATIES

Each year in March, Stellenbosch University presents a homecoming event for its alumni. This year, it was a great success yet again.

Words ILSE ARENDSE
Photos HENK OETS

Our fourth Maties Alumni Homecoming Weekend took place from 27 February to 5 March on our picturesque Stellenbosch campus. It is heart-warming that this opportunity for alumni to revisit Matieland goes from strength to strength.

It was gratifying to see hundreds of our alumni participating in a wide variety of activities ranging from the SU Woodfees long table feast in Ryneveld Street, to the ever-popular Homecoming Concert at Coetzenburg, featuring, among others, Karen Zoid and Zolani Mahola, to the hard-hitting and highly informative business breakfast on the South African economy with the charismatic CEO of Business Leadership South Africa, Bonang Mohali.

Moreover, our alumni also participated in a parkrun, a cricket match and more than 15 luncheons for former Prims held at various residences and restaurants across Stellenbosch.

The Homecoming festivities concluded with a Varsity Cup match against Pukke, where our boys in maroon continued their dominance.

Don't worry if you've missed out this year – just for you, we are already working on our 2020 Homecoming events!



Bonang Mohale, CEO of Business Leadership SA, gave insight into the future of our economy and the role of South African businesses at the SU Homecoming Business Breakfast.



Alumni received five-star treatment at our Homecoming Concert, where they were entertained by some of the country's best music celebrities.



Watch a video
www.youtube.com/stellenboschuni



Former Prims attended various luncheons during Homecoming 2019. Here are the former Prims of Majuba.



Although ERN'S GRUNDLING never went to boarding school or lived in a residence himself, his fascination with this living environment compelled him to compile a volume of stories about res life – with many of the stories coming from Stellies.

Earlier this year, on a week night, I lead a talk about the new book *Koshuis*, compiled by yours truly, in the dining hall at Simonsberg men's residence. This is the same hall where American politician Robert F Kennedy enjoyed lunch on 7 June 1966, despite criticism from the then university authorities.

This was my first visit to the "White House", as Simonsberg is known. Joining me on the panel that night were three of the forty contributors to the book – each representing a different era.

Marnus Hatting was a resident of Huis de Wet in Bloemfontein in the early nineties around the time of our first democratic election. In 2008, Marcus Botha was Prim at Dagbreek in Stellenbosch, and the young theatre producer and opinion maker Mercy Kannemeyer is currently a postgraduate Matie student who resides in Huis De Villiers on the Stellenbosch campus.

Approximately 50 people, from different walks of life, attended the talk. These included current Prim committee, the house committee of Simonsberg, a few of the resident heads and even alumni who shared the Simonsberg dining hall space with Robert F Kennedy many decades ago.

The conversation and the many interesting perspectives – as well as the questions from the audience afterwards – reminded me yet again of the important impact a residence experience has on the life of a young person. In a muddled world where fewer and fewer rituals accompany a young person in the transition from childhood to adulthood, residences still play a formative role.

It is particularly needed in South Africa where – a quarter of a century since our peaceful democratic transition – we still live

CAMARADERIE AND ESCAPADES

past each other, or to put it plainly, live apart. Residences (and the SU clusters, which the residences and private student organisations form part of) play an increasingly important role in young people noticing and appreciating each other as roommates and fellow-residents.

But maybe I should confess something before saying too much about res life: I never resided in a hostel or residence. Not while at school or as a student. I lived at home during my school years in Uitenhage and stayed in private accommodation during my undergraduate student years in Port Elizabeth and later as a postgraduate student in Stellenbosch.

So what made me decide to compile a book about boarding school and residence stories? The answer is simple: I have always loved a good story about res life – maybe because it gave me a glimpse of a world that I never experienced first-hand. A friend from Grahamstown, JP du Toit (also one of the contributors to the book) always made me roar with laughter when he told his tales about his experiences as a hostel kid in George.

When I worked as a journalist at the magazine *Weg/Go*, my editor Bun Booyens' memorable stories about res life planted a further seed for such a book. Bun would often call me into his office for a detailed discussion about one of my articles. But then he would first take a seat on the white couch, fold his arms behind his head and start to tell anecdotes about hostel life – from res boxing and rugby to pranks and unexpected revelations around the coffee pot.

I am very happy that Bun was able to write a contribution for *Koshuis* from the perspective of a small child growing up in a big hostel – this is also the first story in the book.

Initially, my publisher and I approached a few authors, and later I contacted friends and

acquaintances who I knew could write well with a hopeful “Were you ever in a hostel?”. I wanted to give a varied and representative insight into hostel life. The contributors to *Koshuis* vary from older to recent graduates, with a third being women. That there aren't more black or coloured contributors is a tell-tale of South Africa's apartheid history and of who can (or could) afford to live in res.

I consciously tried to cast the net as wide as possible regarding contributors and themes – nostalgia, a ghost story or two, student fun, pranks, hostel food, humour, longing for home, a bit of heartache. Not everyone's hostel or res experience is necessarily positive – two of the contributors only spent a few hours and one week in res respectively.

The stories in *Koshuis* ranges from boarding school hostels (primary and high school) across the country, university residences (including one from Edinburgh in Scotland) and even to the Overseas Visitors Club in London.

By no means does the book try to have the last word on hostel experiences. There are so many hostels, residences and stories out there that there would be scope for more volumes. I am sorry that I was unable to include the story about the time when a group of Simonsberg residents – led by the legendary Vloog Theron – allegedly “borrowed” a circus elephant...

As I was driving home after the talk at Simonsberg, I again realised something: The hostel or residence is a safe haven, a place where camaraderie is built and lifelong friendships are forged. And it is inextricably part of the South African reality – then and now.

Erns Grundling is an author, journalist, TV presenter and producer. *Koshuis* is published by Queillerie (NB Publishers).

IN MEMORIAM

Stellenbosch University has received news of the passing of these alumni. Matieland would like to pay homage those who have passed away.

Mr AJ (Andries) Bester (77) from Brakpan. BA (1961), SOD (1962). Former resident of Helderberg.

Dr BM (Brendon) Binneman (46) from Massachusetts, USA. MBChB (1994). Worked at Pfizer, and was previously employed in England.

Dr S (Savas) Couvaras (80) from the Waterfront, Cape Town. BSc Agriculture (1959), HonsBScAgric (1975), MScAgric (1977), PhD (1979).



Dr PM (Nellie) Crouse (née Du Toit) (88) from Stellenbosch. Opera singer and recipient of an honorary doctorate from SU. Well-known soprano who sang in opera houses across South Africa. After retiring from the stage, she became a singing lecturer at the SU Conservatoire.



Mr PJ (Phil) de Vries (83) from Pretoria. BMil (1957). Former resident of Dagbreek and Huis Marais. Served in the SA Air Force from 1954 until retirement as brigadier (general-major) in 1988.

Mrs JC (Claris) de Lange (née Dreyer) (90) from Durbanville. BSc (1948), SOD (1949). Former resident of Huis de Villiers. Former Maths teacher at, among others, DF Malan High School in Bellville.

Prof JJ (Jan) du Plessis (75) from Stellenbosch. BSc-BIng (1964). Former resident of Simonsberg. Former professor in the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering at SU. Former head engineer at SunSpace. Recipient of an honorary doctorate in Engineering from SU in 2016.

Prof JM (Kotie) Grove (71) from Port Elizabeth. BA (1968), BA Hons (1970), MA (1971), DLitt (1975). Former resident of Majuba. Veteran cricket commentator who started broadcasting for the SABC in 1976. He joined SuperSport in 1994. Professor in Classical Studies at the Nelson Mandela University (formerly UPE) for 44 years before retiring in 2014.



Prof GJ (Deon) Knobel (79) from Oranjezicht, Cape Town. MBChB (1962), MMed (1968). Former resident of Dagbreek. Forensic pathologist and former professor at the University of Cape Town. Music lover and tenor singer.

Prof BL (Brenda) Leibowitz (60) from Stellenbosch. Former director of SU's Centre of Teaching and Learning.

Dr DB (Danie) Pauw (56) from Camps Bay, Cape Town. MBChB (1986). Head and founder of the



website Health24. Worked in Durban and Canada as general practitioner. Founded South Africa's first telephonic medical information service, Meditel, in 1997.

Mrs BA (Trix) Rossouw (née Kritzing) (77) from Warrenton. BA (1960), SOD (1961). Former resident of Huis ten Bosch.

Judge AJ (Anton) Steenkamp (57) from Cape Town. BA (1985), LLB (1987). Former resident of Eendrag and Pieke. Judge of the Cape Town Labour Court. Student activist and former journalist at the anti-apartheid newspaper, *Vrye Weekblad*.

Mr DDV (David) Stofberg (24) from Worcester. BScAgric (2017). Former resident of Huis Marais. Remembered as an avid sportsman and leader at school.

Prof JA (Josef) van Aarde (89) from Port Elizabeth. BA (1949), MA (1951). Former resident of Huis Marais.



Mrs MJ (Martie) van der Linde (née Olivier) (63) from Hermanus. USB-BO (2014). Beloved employee for decades at SU, responsible for liaising with different stakeholders of SU.

Dr MH (Melt) van der Spuy (74) from Senekal. MBChB (1968). Former resident of Eendrag.



Mrs AA (Anna) van Stuyvenberg (née Moller) (98) from Pinelands, Cape Town. BA (1942). Former resident of Monica.

Mr JK (Johan) Wasserfall (65) from Stellenbosch. BCom (1976). Former resident of Helshoogte.

Mr WJ (Willie) Wessels (83) from Heidelberg. BSc in Agriculture (1956). Former resident of Huis Visser.

Lt-Col GJ (Gallie) Wessels (85) from Sunningdale, Johannesburg. BSc (1958), HonsBSc (1960), MSc (1962). Former resident of Wilgenhof. Lived in Saldanha. Worked as physicist at USCOR Pelindaba, and thereafter from 1979 until 1993 as lecturer in Physics at SU's Faculty of Military Science at the Military Academy in Saldanha.

Mr TM (Tiemen) Wind (24) from the Netherlands. Exchange student at SU in 2015.

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